

Stephanie of Monaco granted divorce

MONACO (AP) — The court in Monaco ruled that the marriage between Prince Ranier and Princess Stephanie was annulled.

Sailor holds \$22 million lotto ticket

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A 30-year-old sailor from San Diego has won the \$22 million jackpot in the California State Lottery.

Spanish prison service buys 1.7 million condoms

MADRID (AP) — The Spanish prison service has ordered 1.7 million condoms to be distributed to inmates.

U.S. ring cut owners in on theft — police

NEW YORK (AP) — Police in New York City are investigating the theft of a diamond ring cut by a U.S. jeweler.

Denmark open new offensive against warlike bikers

COPENHAGEN (AP) — Danish police have launched a new offensive against warlike bikers in the capital.

50 nations commit to work for landmine ban
OTTAWA (AP) — Fifty countries agreed to support drafting a global ban on anti-personnel land mines, wrapping up a three-day conference aimed at ultimately halting their production, trade and use. The conference, attended by representatives of more than 60 countries and dozens of non-governmental groups, ended with the adoption of the so-called Ottawa declaration. The declaration is a set of general principles that includes a commitment to work towards "the earliest possible conclusion of a legally binding international agreement to ban anti-personnel mines." Among those agreeing to the principles were the United States, Britain, France, Japan, Germany and Iran. Russia did not sign the declaration and China did not attend.

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan Times

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Erez talks open; Palestinians rule out changes to accords

Israelis lift curfew on Hebron and Jericho, but other parts of West Bank remain under siege

EREZ CROSSING (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestinians opened crucial peace talks under U.S. mediation on Sunday as the Jewish state came under mounting pressure to implement its long-delayed withdrawal from the flashpoint town of Hebron. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who arrived in Israel early Sunday, met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in West Jerusalem and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in the Gaza Strip to press the need for results at the on-stop talks (see separate story). He urged Israel to implement existing accords with the Palestinians, including the Hebron withdrawal which is seven months overdue, saying it was "the best way to reestablish trust and confidence between the two sides."

The Erez talks were organized at an emergency summit in Washington in a last-ditch effort to salvage the peace process after last month's Israeli-Palestinian clashes, the worst in 30 years. Local Administration Minister Saeb Erakat headed the Palestinian delegation, while former Chief of Staff Dan Shomron led the Israelis in the talks which are to continue non-stop until an agreement is hammered out. U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross also participated "to facilitate" in the talks, U.S. officials said. Mr. Arafat, after meeting with Mr. Christopher in Gaza, said the Palestinians "want the other side to stick to a precise and sincere implementation of the agreements already reached."

He reiterated earlier on

Sunday his rejection of any renegotiation of existing Palestinian self-rule accords signed by Israel, in particular the withdrawal of Israeli troops from most of Hebron. "We're going to push forward for implementation of agreements," Mr. Arafat said. Mr. Erakat was more blunt, saying: "We will not agree to reopen, modify or renegotiate the (autonomy) accords" concluded in September 1995.

However, Mr. Netanyahu, who has demanded greater security measures in Hebron to protect the 450 Jewish settlers there, said Sunday that he did not want to reopen existing accords. "We have not proposed reopening the accords, but within the language of the accords to give priority to security," Mr. Netanyahu told reporters Sunday.

Mr. Christopher sought to square the circle between the two sides, saying they "intended to negotiate within the four corners of the agreement," but added that the Hebron accord was "a practical one that could be altered for new circumstances."

He said that in both meetings he "stressed to both parties the importance that they understand each other's need and requirements."

Mr. Netanyahu told members of his right-wing Likud Party that he wanted talks on Hebron to be wrapped up "in a short period."

According to Mr. Netanyahu, the talks "will be limited to two major subjects": Hebron and "general security arrangements, which don't only concern Hebron."

In a bid to ease tensions



An Israeli riot policeman twists a left-wing Jewish woman's arm as she is pushed down the Via Dolorosa as police forcefully break up a peace demonstration Sunday afternoon at the controversial tunnel in Arab East Jerusalem. About 30 left-wing Israelis turned up to demonstrate that the tunnel should be closed in order to maintain peaceful relations between Israelis and Palestinians (Reuters photo)

U.S. insists it wants quick, concrete results from Israeli-Palestinian talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher urged Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to achieve concrete results fast in negotiations resuming on Sunday after an outbreak of violence that threatened their U.S.-brokered peace. "The recent violence has demonstrated the great urgency of reaching some concrete results just as soon as possible," he told a joint news conference in occupied Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Mr. Christopher also said after meeting Palestinian President Yasser Arafat the situation between Israel and the PNA was still dangerous although tensions had eased. "The situation has eased somewhat...but it is still a dangerous situation," Mr. Christopher told reporters in Gaza.

Mr. Christopher met Mr. Arafat in Gaza after talks with Mr. Netanyahu. "What we seek is a simultaneous recommitment by both sides to the principles that both signed on to in Oslo," he said in a reference to their peace deals launched in 1993.

Asked about a date for the partial pullout from Hebron, Mr. Netanyahu, usually a master of the tele-

vision sound bite, awkwardly sidestepped the question.

"I am not putting a date. I'm putting a conclusion. The satisfactory conclusion of the negotiation, I think from both sides, will be the date in which you'll be able to signify as a conclusion. And once it's concluded, I don't think there should be a delay in its implementation," he said in English.

Mr. Netanyahu sought to calm Palestinian fears that he wanted to rewrite the Oslo interim self-rule agreement signed by his Labour Party predecessors. "We did not propose reopening the agreement. We suggested that within the confines of the existing agreement adjustments be made," he told the news conference.

Mr. Netanyahu wants to modify security arrangements for Jewish settlers in Hebron, the last of seven West Bank cities under the peace deals due to be given Palestinian self-rule.

"The prime minister

(Continued on page 7)

King reiterates Jordan's support for Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday stressed Jordan's full support for the Palestinians. In a telephone interview with Palestinian Television on the eve of the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli talks at the Erez crossing

(Continued on page 7)

Kabariti expected home after emergency landing

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti was expected to arrive home in the early hours of Monday after a Royal Jordanian (RJ) plane carrying him and other passengers from New York to Amman via Amsterdam made an emergency landing in Ireland after it developed a minor engine trouble, official sources said.

The RJ TriStar, carrying 162 passengers, landed in Shannon on the west coast of Ireland Sunday after its captain, Nasri Jumeihan, opted to land the aircraft although he could have continued to Amman despite the problem, airlines officials said in Amman.

Information Minister Marwan Muasher said a "technical problem" was behind the emergency landing. Ambulances and fire engines were deployed when the aircraft touched down but there were no incidents.

Munir Touqan, RJ's director of public relations, said the aircraft developed "a minor fault in the engine and the captain could have continued his flight to

Paris to Amman.

Saddam says embargo 'marching to its end'

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein said on Sunday stringent U.N. trade sanctions imposed on Iraq over its 1990 invasion of Kuwait were heading towards their end.

Baghdad Radio, in a report on Sunday's cabinet meeting chaired by President Saddam, said the Iraqi leader also harnessed senior government officials from investing in private projects so they would not be swayed by commercial interests.

"The president leader, may God protect him, stressed the embargo is marching to the edge of its end, saying that Iraq's power to face aggression and embargo relies on the ability of the leadership to rally people," the radio said.

The six-year U.N. sanctions include a ban on the export of oil and import of all commodities except for food and medicine, which Iraq has little cash to pay for.

Iraq and the United Nations signed a deal in May which would allow Baghdad to export \$2 billion of oil over six months to pay for urgently needed food and medicine. The deal was delayed last month after Iraqi military intervention in Kurdish fighting.

Washington insists sanctions cannot be completely

(Continued on page 7)

Irish foreign minister seeks to secure role for EU in Mideast peace process

DUBLIN (Agencies) — Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring left Dublin on Sunday to fly the European Union (EU) flag at Middle East peace talks from which the bloc feels it has been excluded.

Mr. Spring, whose country holds the current EU presidency, was expected to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv later Sunday officials said.

He was also expected to confer with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Irish officials said talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat were also probable but exact details of the hastily-arranged visit had yet to be fixed.

It was not known how long Mr. Spring would stay in the region but his attendance at U.S. talks in Pittsburgh on investment for

Northern Ireland on Monday had been cancelled, officials said. Mr. Spring was mandated to go to the region by a one-day summit of EU leaders in Dublin on Saturday which expressed concern at the rapid deterioration of the Middle East peace process.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton said late on Saturday that the EU was the biggest aid donor to the region and had a role to play in reviving the peace process.

His remarks echoed concern among many European capitals that the EU had been sidelined in U.S.-led attempts to get 1993 Middle East peace accords back on track.

Mr. Arafat appealed this week for more EU involvement in efforts to patch up the peace process. But some EU officials in Dublin

(Continued on page 7)

Dinar continues plunge

The Iraqi dinar meanwhile resumed its slide against the U.S. dollar, bringing to an early end last week's successful intervention by state banks to prop up the Iraqi currency.

Iraq's two state-owned banks — Al Rafidain and Al Rashid — took the unusual step of selling dollars locally last week in a bid to stop the dinar from further plummeting.

Earlier last week, the dinar hit a low of 1,775 dinars to the dollar, compared to about 1,400 dinars

(Continued on page 7)

Taleban may have lost momentum — analysts

KABUL (R) — The mighty momentum that swept the purist Islamic Taleban movement from nothing to power in Kabul in just two years may have stalled with the capture of the Afghan capital and its problems are only just beginning, analysts said on Sunday.

"First, they may have lots of intelligent people, but they have no experience of running a country or dealing with the outside world. They are in completely virgin territory," said one veteran Western Afghan watcher.

"Then they have the military problem of trying to take the Panjsher Valley and dealing with Dostum. I doubt they can take the valley and it's only a matter of time before they end up fighting with Dostum," he said.

Ahmad Shah Masood, the veteran guerrilla general who was military chief in the government the Taleban drove out of Kabul on Sept. 27, has retreated to the Panjsher, a long, steep-sided winding valley the Soviet army could never take from him while backing a communist government in the 1980s.

Black-turbaned Taleban warriors attacked the valley on Saturday and took the rocky hilltops at the beginning of the winding, almost sheer-sided gorge leading into the Panjsher but did not appear to have forced a way into it, witnesses said.

Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum controls six northern provinces from the city of Mazar-e-Sharif where a liberal Islamic life contrasts sharply with the purist vision of the Taleban.

Taleban officials say they are expecting Gen. Dostum to send a delegation to Kabul soon to discuss forming a "broad-based government" but did not know when.

"They might be able to do a temporary deal with Gen. Dostum, but I doubt they can take the Panjsher. But they will not be able to work with Gen. Dostum and if they can't take

the valley then internal divisions cemented over by the momentum they've enjoyed will start to appear," the Western analyst said.

The Taleban movement was born two years ago in religious schools in refugee camps in Pakistan. It comprises mainly ethnic Pushtun, a collection of frequently quarrelling tribes. Mr. Masood is a minority Tajik. Gen. Dostum is an Uzbek, descendants of the Mongols of Genghis Khan.

The ethnic divisions of Afghanistan have never been resolved and Gen. Dostum, then a communist general, switched sides shortly before the government of President Najibullah collapsed in 1992 because Najibullah appointed a Pushtun to a top post in Mazar-e-Sharif. But Gen. Dostum, who has a well-equipped army and a small air force, fell out with Mr. Masood in 1994, staged an abortive coup, then retreated to the north. Before Kabul fell to the Taleban, he was having talks on rejoining the government.

"But his terms were very high. He wanted several top posts for his people, including the defence ministry, 20 ambassadorships and no interference in his territory," said a former Afghan official. "I'm sure he will ask the same of the Taleban and it will be difficult for them to concede all this."

Uzbeks and the Taleban also have widely diverging views on Islam. Many Uzbeks drink, an abhorrence to the strictly Islamic Taleban, who banned television, music and alcohol immediately after taking Kabul.

They ordered women to stay at home until a way could be found for them to work without coming into contact with men. They ordered men to grow beards and forego Western dress.

"Do you really think all this stuff the Taleban are doing with women and beards is appropriate for the 20th century?" sneered an Uzbek officer on the

front line between the two groups last week.

Nevertheless, some Afghan watchers said strict adherence to a stern Islamic line could be a cement that would bind the Pushtun Taleban.

"Rarely, if ever in Afghan history, have the Pushtuns been united for long. But the sharia (Islamic law) could do it for them," another Western analyst said. "The mullahs are in control as they have been in the countryside for centuries, but their problem is they have no idea how to run a government," he said.

"How can you run an efficient administration when you order men to go to the mosque five times a day to pray? Where is the money to run government going to come from? We hear the previous government took most of the assets from the central bank and we don't know of any significant government revenues."

Kabul is in bad shape after more than five years of fighting for it, although many ordinary people are delighted at the Taleban's arrival because they now have peace even though they frequently admit to being afraid of the Taleban fighters.

Electricity supplies are occasional and reach only parts of the city, large parts of which were destroyed in fighting that cost many people what they had.

Western aid groups say they help some 200,000 people a day in a city with an estimated population of 1.2 million with Afghanistan's harsh winter approaching rapidly.

"But most of their projects are at a standstill because of the temporary ban on women and group leaders say they may have to pull out if the change in policy they are pressing for fails to materialise."

"We'll get them through the winter, but if we can't stay, who's going to look after these people? And if no one does, what are the consequences going to be?" asked one aid worker.



Palestinian women buy vegetables at the main market of Hebron in the West Bank on Sunday after Israel lifted a curfew imposed on the Palestinians living in the town (Reuters photo)

Key issues at stake in Erez talks, from Hebron to Israeli 'security'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli-Palestinian talks in the self-ruled Gaza Strip scheduled for Sunday were due to centre on several issues:

— Hebron: Israeli troops were due in March to band over parts of this West Bank city to Palestinian rule. Then-Prime Minister Shimon Peres put off the pull back because of security concerns following suicide bombings that killed 59 people in Israel in February and March.

The city is the only one of seven West Bank towns in a 1995 peace deal yet to be turned over — and the only one where Jews live among Arabs.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu views the accord that included Hebron as fundamentally flawed but promises to see the redeployment through as an international commitment. He has asked for changes in security arrangements.

The Palestinians — and

the United States — have demanded a deadline for the pull back. Israel refuses to give one.

— Security arrangements: Israel wants to install new security arrangements following gunbattles last month unprecedented in the three years since the launch of the first peace deal between Israel and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

— Closure: Palestinians demand a further easing of limits on the entry of their labourers to jobs in Israel. Mr. Netanyahu has gradually allowed the entry of more workers, raising the number from 22,000 to 37,000 and lately to 50,000.

Palestinians also want a redeployment in the peace deal Israel signed with them in 1995, the release of prisoners and implementation of a secure passage for Palestinians between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

— Jerusalem tunnel:

Palestinians want Israel to close the opening it made in an archaeological tourist tunnel last month in a sensitive part of Jerusalem's Old City, giving vent to Palestinian frustration at the slow pace of peace moves. Israel says the issue is not on the agenda.

— Gaza airport: Palestinians want to run an air strip in the self-ruled Gaza Strip area of Rafah. Mr. Netanyahu says the issue is up for discussion but wants security responsibility for Israel.

— Final-status talks: Palestinians demand a start to talks with Mr. Netanyahu's government on a final peace deal due to be completed by May 4, 1999, on such tough issues as Jerusalem, Jewish settlers, Palestinian refugees and statehood. Israel symbolically launched the talks in early May this year while Mr. Peres was prime minister. Mr. Netanyahu narrowly defeated him in elections later that month.

Israeli banks finance F-4 deal with Turkey

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli commercial banks have approved a package of credit to finance a \$600 million deal by Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) to upgrade Turkey's fleet of F-4 Phantom fighters, banking sources said on Sunday.

No further details of the financing package were available from the consortium of banks. A spokeswoman for IAI declined to comment on the deal.

State-owned IAI reached an agreement in 1995 to upgrade the Turkish air force's fleet of 54 McDonnell Douglas F-4 jets.

The deal is considered very important for Israel's defence industry as well as for the advancement of Arab-Israeli relations, which were weak during decades of Arab-Israeli conflict. But the deal was contingent on the approval of \$457 million in Israeli financing for the Turkish government. Earlier this year Israel's parliamentary finance committee agreed to provide government guarantees for \$410 million in bank financing. But Israeli banks had been reluctant to take on the risk for the remaining \$47 million.

The five-year deal to upgrade the fighter bombers will involve installation of advanced avionics systems, including radar and electronic warfare and navigation systems. The Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharanot said the deal still needs final approval of the two governments but a spokesman for Israel's finance ministry said no further Israeli authorisation was needed.

Iran says it arrested spy for Turkey

DUBAI (R) — Iran said on Sunday it had arrested a Turkish spy and implied that three Turkish diplomats at the embassy in Tehran knew of his operations.

"An agent of the Turkish intelligence agency has been arrested in Orumiyyeh, western Iran," the official Iranian news agency IRNA quoted a security official as saying.

The official added that the spy was to receive guidelines from three staff of the Turkish embassy in Tehran in case of running into any trouble or needing coordination," IRNA said.

Iran said in April that it has uncovered five spy networks led by Turkish diplomats that threatened security in Iran.

The allegations were made shortly after a row in which Tehran asked Ankara to withdraw four Turkish diplomats accused of leading spy rings in Iran, and Turkey expelled four Iranian diplomats for their alleged links to killings of Iranian exiles.

Iran's ties with Turkey were further strained over Tehran's objections to Ankara's military accord with Israel and Iranian allegations of Turkish air raids on an Iranian border region in June. Turkey denies any raids took place.

The Iranian official said the alleged spy "guided by certain Turkish political currents, which also have influence on the intelligence agencies of Turkey, had brought into Iran a significant amount of brochures and pamphlets of Turkey's Kurdish Labour Party (PKK)."

He said "The spy has confessed that he was to stay in Orumiyyeh as a tourist and take pictures from a number of places to send them to Turkey describing them as the PKK positions in Iran." The idea was to launch a new wave of propaganda campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"The agent was arrested before carrying out his mission," the official added.

Turkey accuses neighbouring Iran of sponsoring the PKK, which is fighting for self-rule in Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeast. At least 20,000 people have died in the 12-year struggle between the Turkish army and the PKK.

Kuwait parliament hopefuls wind up election campaigns

KUWAIT (R) — Some candidates in Kuwait's Oct. 7 parliament election wrapped up their campaign rallies with intensified claims of state interference and vote buying.

"The government wants a parliament that has no content," said opposition candidate Ahmad Al Shuryan who is seeking reelection on Monday. "This is a fact despite the denials."

There are about 230 candidates, including 41 mem-

bers of the last parliament, running for 50 seats in Monday's polls.

The state has repeatedly said its only role in the all-male election was administrative. Officials said leading members of the ruling Al Sabah family, eager to maintain an image of neutrality, were not expected to vote.

But Mr. Shuryan told a rally on Saturday night: "The government backs some candidates... It only

backs unworthy candidates... (who) are rubber stampers."

"There are people who are buying votes. This is bribery and God said those who give and take bribes go to hell," he added without naming any candidate. "The government is protecting thieves. They steal and it protects them..."

Officials often refer to such accusations as proof of the freedom of the election process and the ability of

Kuwaitis to criticise the government both in public and in parliament.

Mr. Shuryan was speaking to an audience of about 4,000 who gathered to also listen to six other candidates, followed by a generous free dinner which organisers said cost some \$20,000.

The outgoing parliament, the first since the 1991 Gulf war, opened wide probes into alleged official corruption and claims of poor

government management in dealing with events which led to Iraq's 1990 invasion and occupation of tiny Kuwait.

Kuwait's parliament is the only elected house in the six oil-rich Gulf Arab states but Kuwaiti women, over 50 per cent of the 700,000 Kuwaiti nationals, cannot run for a seat or vote.

Only some 107,000 Kuwaiti men can vote. "It is not time yet to give women voting and election

rights," Deputy Talal Al Saeed, a bedouin, told Reuters on Saturday after parliament ended its four-year term. "God willing she will not get them in the next election (2001)."

A group of Kuwaiti female activists, who enjoy the backing of some leading politicians, are organising a "silent march" on election day to demand political rights.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05Adventure On The Rainbow Pond
15:30 UEFA Football Match
17:00News Flash
17:02Sciences Cartoon
17:15La Vie Devant Moi
17:30Game Show — Pyramid
18:00Magazine — La Marche Du Siecle/Part Two
19:00Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Cinq Sur Cinq
19:30News Headlines
19:35 The Hypnotic World of Paul Mc Kenna
20:00Doc. — Deep Probe Expectations
21:10The Lazarus Man
22:00News in English
22:25The Bold and the Beautiful
23:10Bodies of Evidence

PRAYER TIMES

04:12Fajr
05:29(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:24Dhuhr
14:44Asr
17:19Maghreb
18:35Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church Tel.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Amman International Church Tel. 827126
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Fine weather conditions will prevail with temperatures dropping slightly, clouds building up and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111
Civil Defence Department.....661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue.....630341
Civil Defence Emergency.....199
Rescue Police.....192.62111.637777
Fire Brigade.....617101
Blood Bank.....775121
Highway Police.....843402
Traffic Police.....896390
Public Security Dept.....630321
Hotel Complaints.....605800
Price Complaints.....661176
Water & Sewage Complaints.....897467
Amman Municipality Complaints assistance.....787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance).....121
Overseas Calls.....010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs.....623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs.....661101
Jordan Television.....773111
Radio Jordan.....774111
Water Authority.....680100
J. Electricity Authority.....815615
Electric Power Co.....636381
RJ Flight Information.....08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh.....736011
Dr. Jihad Sammur.....765018
Dr. Hisham Khan'an.....790286
Dr. Khalid Asfour.....666873
Ferdows pharmacy.....778336
Al Asema pharmacy.....637055
Nairoukh pharmacy.....623672
Al Salam pharmacy.....636730
Yacoub pharmacy.....644945
Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660
Nairoukh pharmacy.....847632

IRBID:

Dr. Muzen Abu Bakr.....776852
Al Quds pharmacy.....(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Akram Haddad.....985550
Khalifeh pharmacy.....985417

HOSPITAL

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre.....813813/32
Khalidi Maternity.....644281/6
Akileh Maternity.....642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity.....642362
Malhas, J. Amman.....636140
Palestine, Shmeisani.....607071
Shmeisani Hospital.....669131
University Hospital.....845845
Al-Muasher Hospital.....667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali.....666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali.....664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen.....777101/3
Al-Bashir.....775111/26
Army, Marka.....891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital.....602240/50
Amal Hospital.....674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery.....865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital.....09983323
Zarqa National Hospital.....09900560
Ibn Sina Hospital.....09986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital.....09990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital.....1021275555
Greek Catholic Hospital.....02127275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital.....021247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital.....031314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (0852700-5, where it should always be verified).
Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700).
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:15Sanaa (RJ)
08:30Jeddah (RJ)
09:10Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:20Beirut (RJ)
09:30New Delhi (RJ)
14:00London (RJ)
16:20Cairo (RJ)
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:00Bangkok (RJ)
21:40London (addl) (RJ)
22:25Casablanca (RJ)
03:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
Other Flights
05:45Khartoum (SD)
12:40 Sharjah, Bahrain (GF)
13:30Kiev (RU)
14:00Vienna (OS)
17:30Athens, Istanbul (Q7)
19:35Cairo (MS)
19:55Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:10Beirut (ME)
21:00Tel Aviv (LY)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:35Beirut (RJ)
10:00Casablanca (RJ)
10:00London (addl) (RJ)
11:30Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:15Cairo (RJ)
12:25London (RJ)
12:25Frankfurt (RJ)
20:45Damascus (RJ)
21:15Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:45Sanaa (RJ)
23:55Abu Dhabi (RJ)
Other Flights
05:00Istanbul (TK)
06:45Beirut, London (BA)
07:45Beirut (ME)
13:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:30Kiev (RU)
14:50Vienna (OS)
18:30Doha (Q7)
20:25Cairo (MS)
22:00Tel Aviv (LY)
22:55Damascus, Paris (AF)
01:30Amsterdam (KL)
03:00Beirut, Athens (OA)

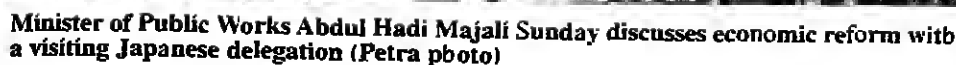
ROYAL WINGS (RW) Flights

19:30Aqaba (RW)
HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman8:00 am every Monday
Arr. Damascus5:00 pm every Monday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple.....700/500
Banana.....500/400
Banana (mukhammar).....420/420
Banana (imported).....830/600
Cabbage.....110/70
Carrot.....280/140
Cauliflower.....360/200
Cucumber (large).....150/90
Cucumber (small).....320/170
Eggplant.....230/130
Garlic.....700/450
Grapes.....500/350
Lemon.....400/250
Marrow (large).....220/150
Marrow (small).....420/250
Mulukhiyah.....180/100
Onion (green).....340/240
Onion (dry).....140/80
Okra.....1000/600
Pear.....650/450
Pea.....600/400
Pepper (hot).....320/200
Pepper (sweet).....420/240
Pomegranate.....400/250
Potato.....320/200
Spinach.....320/200
Spring Bean.....780/400
Tomato.....220/120
Water melon.....210/120

[illegible]

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Hadi Majali Sunday lauded Jordanian-Japanese relations, saying that Japan has always provided support for the Kingdom's development projects as well as economic reform programmes.

During a meeting with a visiting Japanese economic delegation, Mr. Majali stated that Jordan's economy has suffered due to regional political shifts.

The minister noted that Jordan has had three waves of refugee immigrations, displaced persons and others in 1948, 1967 and 1990.

These waves have put additional pressures on Jordan's infrastructure and resources, he said.

The minister expressed hope that the Middle East peace process will bring regional stability and security, which, he said, are requirements for an atmosphere conducive to investment.

Mr. Majali lauded Japanese contributions to various development projects, saying that the present is opportune for the Japanese to invest in industrial and tourist projects in Jordan.

He stated his wish that the Japanese government and private sector provide increased support to Jordanian projects whose feasibility, he said, has been proven through time.

Also Sunday, the delegation met with Director General of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) Yousef Hiyasat, who briefed them on the corporation's role in easing the national housing crisis, in the face of demographic shifts from within the country as well as from foreign immigration and increased population growth over the past two decades.

Dr. Hiyasat said the corporation has built 100 housing projects for close to 320,000 people.

He reviewed the corporation's efforts to restructure the housing sector and provide adequate low-income housing.

Describing the latest methodology in providing low-income housing units, Dr. Hiyasat said that the corporation organises small plots of land, and provides infrastructure services to enable people to build their own housing units in accordance with their needs.

Head of the Japanese delegation Uno Zano expressed admiration for Jordan's housing innovations as well as its programmes in attracting foreign investment.

AMMAN (J.T.) — A population expert from the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Sunday told a regional specialists' meeting that Middle Eastern countries face chronic problems which impede socio-economic development.

These include fiscal budget crises, debts, slow economic growth and lack of modern technology.

Head of ESCWA's Population Sector Youssef Jamil cited declines in foreign aid, a drop in oil prices, and the negative impact of such as the main reasons for this imbalance.

Dr. Jamil was leading a seminar entitled "Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development in the Arab World" and said that despite socio-economic changes in the region over the past four decades, the literacy rate among females remains below 50 per cent, mainly concentrated among those over 20.

He stated that women make up 15 per cent of the total workforce and that the education of women contributes to sustainable development, which in turn can help Arab states to successfully grapple with demographic growth.

Dr. Jamil informed the meeting that the past four decades brought extreme development to the Arab world whose population increased from 132 million in 1974 to 237 million in 1992 and is expected to rise to 449 million by the year 2020.

He noted that, at the same time that fertility rates rose, mortality rates dropped and that life expectancy rose to an average of 60 years while 40 per cent of the Arab population is less than 15 years old.

Referring to labour movements in Arab nations, he said that the past four decades witnessed migrations of workers from poor countries to oil rich nations while other migrations occurred in the region due to regional unrest and conflicts.

Referring to measures taken by some Middle Eastern and North African countries to confront the increase in population growth, he said that in the past three decades Jordan

along with Tunisia, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco and Yemen have implemented policies and population programmes as part of efforts to ensure socio-economic development.

This group will review a number of papers in their three-day encounter dealing with the impacts of economic reform programmes on Arab World populations, as well as poverty, health and education issues.

The meeting will pave the way for the first meeting for heads of National Population Councils in the Arab World which convenes here October 9.

ESCWA, which is organising both meetings, said that they form a project entitled "Population Policies for Arab countries in the ESCWA region and North Africa."

It said that the aim of the meetings, attended by various regional and international specialists, is to improve the ability of Arab national population councils to prepare and develop comprehensive development policies.

AMMAN (J. T.) — A series of fires, recently and apparently, deliberately set have prompted cries of alarm from the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), which Sunday issued an appeal to protect trees around the Dana Wildlife Reserve.

They stressed that forests are part of Jordan's natural wealth that must be safeguarded.

RSCN President Anis Muasher, who issued the appeal, said that a series of fires which occurred recently in the Dana Reserve in southern Jordan, were all believed to have been deliberately set and urged the local authorities to instigate investigations.

This reserve is located in a beautiful, wooded, mountainous section of the Jordan Rift Valley, according to the RSCN.

The wildlife reserve covers 100 square kilometres and is considered to be one of the few areas where viable populations of larger mammals can survive such as the mountain gazelle, ibex and striped hyena, according to the RCN.

Authorities should not be lenient with arsonists who destroy the land and trees which belong to the nation, beautify the country and attract tourists," added Mr. Muasher.

Appealing to inhabitants around the area to report any

By Isam Qadamani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The General Union of Electricity Workers Sunday announced that the 150 workers at the Zarqa-based National Cable and Wire Manufacturing Company (CABLECO JORDAN) will stage an open strike as of Oct 20 to buttress demands for higher pay and better working conditions.

Union President Khalifah Ma'aytah said that the decision to strike came after repeated attempts by workers over the past few years to persuade company management to give them raises and offer health insurance plans.

After repeated attempts on the part of the union to mediate between workers and management and ensure a hearing of workers' complaints, the management sent a memorandum stating that there was no point for such demands as the company had no assets, according to Mr. Ma'aytah.

The management also claims that it is due to a slow pace of production, for which it faulted workers, that the company sustained losses and also that it is now time to lay off workers in order to reduce production costs, he said.

The memorandum accused an unspecified number of workers of instigating their colleagues to stage the upcoming strike and of repeatedly violating company rules, therefore causing delays in production, Mr. Ma'aytah added.

While refusing to discuss worker demands and claiming that the company faces financial difficulties, the management is currently involved in an expansion costing JD3 million, stated the workers' representative.

According to Mr. Ma'aytah, the minister of labour had at one time formed a committee of members of the Zarqa Labour Department to settle the dispute but that it did not resolve the issue to the satisfaction of the involved parties.

He said that despite the decision to strike the union has not closed the door to dialogue in the hope that management will change its mind and reach a compromise with the workers.

AMMAN (Petra) — Police are investigating a case in which two Ministry of Supply inspectors were attacked over the week-end by workers in a butcher's shop in Tareq, northwest of Amman.

The two were admitted to an unspecified hospital for medical aid.

The ministry said Sunday that two of its officials, in the course of duty, discovered that the owner of a butcher shop was slaughtering live sheep inside his store in contravention of health regulations and that additionally he was selling mutton without official stamps from the municipality's slaughterhouse in violation of the so-called Supply Law.

When the two inspectors handed the butcher a notice that he was in violation of regulations they were attacked with empty bottles by an unidentified person inside the shop resulting in injuries and necessitating medical treatment, said the ministry statement.

It continued to state that upon the inspectors' return the following day they found the establishment closed and subsequently alerted police.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Narcotics and Forgery Department Sunday reported the arrest of 19 persons, who, the department said, were found possessing or selling drugs.

The suspects are in possession of 15 kilograms of hashish and 1.49 kilograms of heroin, Department Director Nazih Shreideh said.

Colonel Shreideh said that among the accused was a 70-year old foreigner with a record of drug trafficking who was allegedly peddling the drugs with the help of a 63-year old Jordanian.

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Criminal Court Sunday heard four witnesses testifying in the opening case of a 26-year-old physician who was murdered in her apartment in Tlaa Al Ali in August.

The victim, Iman Yassin, who worked for the Islamic Hospital in Amman, was in her flat on Aug. 11, when she was allegedly attacked by Abdul Fatah Mustafa, 24, who worked in building maintenance and as guard, the prosecution charge sheet said.

The defendant, who had confessed and reenacted the crime for the authorities, including the prosecutor general, Sunday pleaded not guilty in court to all charges.

Charges against Mr. Mustafa include: murder, attempted rape, sexual aggression, house break and public intoxication.

Father of the victim Rafiq Assad Yassin, 63, told the tribunal that on Aug. 8, he left Damascus for business and that the defendant was watching him as he left the building complex.

When asked by the court tribunal if he wished to drop charges, Mr. Yassin refused, sobbing: "I want this man to be executed in front of Al Hussein Mosque (downtown) to be a lesson for everybody," he said.

Yousef Abdul Hafiz, an acquaintance of Mr. Mustafa, said that on the night of the incident, the defendant told him that he was thinking about one of the women who resided in the building but that he did not further elaborate.

He said that they both consumed vodka then parted ways around midnight.

A third witness, Mahmoud Freihit, told the court that the defendant volunteered to check on the victim from a nearby apartment after she failed to report to work or answer her phone.

"He returned and informed us that he checked from the window of a nearby apartment and saw Ms. Yassin sleeping," Mr. Freihit said.

The prosecution charged that the defendant, who was employed a month before the incident, monitored the victim with the intention of sexual assault.

The prosecution said that Mr. Mustafa sneaked into the victim's apartment in the Fardous Housing Complex at 1:30 a.m. on Aug. 11, and attempted to rape her.

A struggle ensued over which the woman's head struck the radiator in her apartment. Pathologist determined that the blow caused her immediate death.

The court tribunal was presided over by Justices Abdul Ruhman Tawfiq, Mifleh Moubeidin and Ismael Himouz, who postponed the case for Oct. 9 to hear prosecution witnesses.

Meanwhile, last week the Criminal Court sentenced Mahmoud Jamil Faris, 20, to death after he was found guilty of theft and the premeditated murder of Yassin Abdul Kader in the latter's apartment in the Mukabalin area of Amman in February.

The court, comprised of Justices Kamal Falah Ahmad Momani and Abdul Hamid Sa'ed, also sentenced two juveniles, Ahmad Mohammad and Na'eem Jamal, both 17, to 12 years detention at a juvenile rehabilitation center, for complicity in the murder.

All three men, who pleaded not guilty in court, had earlier confessed and reenacted the crime for the authorities.

According to the court, the three had planned to rob the victim.

They went to his apartment and after drinking to the point of intoxication they demanded his money but he refused and asked them to leave.

A fight erupted between them and the three defendants stabbed the victim with a screwdriver, a razor blade and an iron bar, then fled the house with one and a half dinars.

The death sentence passed on Mr. Faris was the 18th announced by the Criminal Court since the beginning of the year.

The verdict will automatically be reviewed by a higher court within one month.

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Income Tax Department (ITD) has rejected charges by the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) that it specifically targets doctors and violates the patient-physician privilege.

While the ITD aims at "setting an efficient taxation system" to track down the revenues of private physicians the JMA is trying to defend its members' interests.

According to the Department of Statistics, there are nearly 2,000 male and around 300 female physicians currently practising in the Kingdom.

The current taxation system relies mostly on auto-certification, as each physician is obliged to submit an annual report to the ITD specifying the amount and the sources of her/his income.

To verify the accuracy of such reports, the JMA claims that the ITD has started requesting that hospitals provide the department with information about the number and type of patients admitted to these facilities by some physicians. Such requests, says the JMA, jeopardise the patient-physician privilege as an invasion of privacy.

"We, as the JMA, recognise and abide by the regulations set by the ITD, and urge all private physicians, as well as all citizens, to do so," Chairman of the JMA Bassam Dajani told the Jordan Times.

But "the ITD is trying to force private hospitals to release information about the patients [treated] by each physician," Dr. Dajani charged.

"They have no right to ask for such information," he said.

Dr. Dajani also added that the hospitals approached so far by the ITD have refused to release any information whatsoever on their patients.

Meanwhile, the ITD denies it has ever made any such request for information to any hospital and rejects any charge of attempted violation of the patient-physician privilege.

"We did not approach any hospital and did not ask for any information about the patients," Director General of the ITD Mansour Haddadin said.

Mr. Haddadin also rejected claim raised in recent Arabic press reports that physicians are becoming a special target of the ITD and special procedures to quantify more accurately their income are under preparation.

"From our side there is no problem, and we are dealing with the physicians in the same way as we deal with other categories," Mr. Haddadin declared.

"The controversy [with the ITD] started because the ITD does not find that some of the reports [submitted by the physicians on their yearly income] are accurate and true," Dr. Dajani said.

The doctors say that if the ITD needs any information about the number or type of patients, it should ask the physicians directly.

"Each physician should provide, upon request, the information relevant to the quantification of her/his income, in a way that does not jeopardise the secrecy of the relationship between physician and patient," Dr. Dajani told the Jordan Times.

Whenever medical expenses are covered by insurance or by bank check, it should be relatively easy for the ITD to track down the physician's income.

Problems arise when fees are paid in cash, and Dr. Dajani admits that "in most cases, the patients pay in cash."

As examples of standard medical fees, charges for specialists' visits to patients in West Amman hospitals range between JD40 and JD50, hospital administrators told the Jordan Times.

Obstetrical fees for a normal delivery, without complications, in a second class room of a West Amman hospital costs around JD350, including doctor's fees, the same sources told the Jordan Times.

A wisdom-tooth extraction in West Amman clinics costs around JD50, but can reach up to JD125 if minor surgery and stitches are required.

For Dr. Dajani, the solution to the problem between the income tax auditors and private physicians does not lie in investigating their professional income via hospital records but rather contacting them directly to request that they support the income report with documentation.

* Stravinsky* at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

CONCERT

* Performance by Al Hannonah Band at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

Pyongyang arrests American for spying for South Korea

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea has arrested a U.S. citizen and accused him of spying for rival South Korea, the North's official media said Sunday.

Evan Carl Hunzike was detained on Aug. 24 after "illegally" crossing into North Korea from China, Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

"It has been proved by investigation that he was sent for espionage by South Korea's agency for national security planning," the report said, referring to South Korea's main intelligence agency.

"He will have to take an appropriate penal responsibility under the DPRK (North Korean) criminal law," KCNA said.

The agency said Hunzike had crossed the Amnok (Yalu) River on the country's northwestern border.

"He admitted that he is a

U.S. citizen and he illegally entered the DPRK for the purpose of getting information of its domestic situation," the dispatch said.

KCNA did not explain why it had taken six weeks to announce Hunzike's capture, where he was being held or any other details of his alleged activities.

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Seoul said the embassy had heard nothing more than the KCNA report. He said he was unable to confirm the citizenship of the captured man.

Washington, which has 37,000 troops in South Korea, has no direct diplomatic relations with Pyongyang although talks have been underway to set up liaison offices in each others' capitals.

The Swedish mission in Pyongyang handles U.S. affairs there, and some contacts are made through the North Korean mission to the

United Nations in New York.

Pyongyang has been waging a determined drive for bilateral peace talks with the United States, bypassing South Korea. Seoul and Washington have counter-proposed four-party talks involving the two Koreas, China and the United States.

The last time an American citizen was held by North Korea, it involved a South Korean-based U.S. military pilot, whose reconnaissance helicopter strayed over the border and was shot down in December of 1994.

One crewman was killed in the downing, and the second, Bobby Hall, was freed after U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson held talks in Pyongyang with North Korean authorities.

North-South tensions have been high since a North Korean submarine ran aground off South Korea last month. Seoul

also suspects North Korean involvement in the murder of one of its diplomats in Vladivostok last week.

The United States reached a landmark but controversial agreement with Pyongyang in 1994 to gradually improve diplomatic relations in exchange for the North dropping its suspected nuclear weapons programme.

Since then, Washington has been providing fuel oil to the impoverished communist state and funneling food aid to the North's hungry through the United Nations.

Leading Republicans in Washington have slammed the 1994 deal as "rewarding a rogue nuclear state" but defenders of the accord, guaranteed by U.S. President Bill Clinton, argue that it has built-in safeguards.



Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole gives a thumbs up as he and his wife Elizabeth lunch with former U.S. President George Bush at the poolside of the Dole's Bal Harbour beachside condominium. Sen. Dole spent two days in Florida preparing for his upcoming debate with President Bill Clinton Oct. 6 in Hartford, Connecticut (Renter photo)

Clinton seeks to defuse Dole attack on drugs

CHAUTAUQUA, N.Y. (R) — Anticipating a line of attack from Republican Bob Dole, President Bill Clinton Saturday disclosed details of a controversial memo on the drug war that Republicans claim is critical of his leadership.

Taking a break from his preparations to debate Sen. Dole Sunday, Mr. Clinton told reporters the confidential memo by Federal Bureau of Investigation director Louis Freeh simply argued for a reorganisation of responsibilities within the government.

"It was a memo by Mr. Louis Freeh to me arguing that the federal government had never been properly organised in terms of who had jurisdiction to do what in the drug war," Mr. Clinton said.

"He argues for a reallocation of authority and I thought argued quite persuasively that we needed a way to coordinate this," Mr. Clinton said in a brief talk with reporters in this remote, lakeside town in western New York state.

Mr. Clinton has refused to give the memo to congressional Republicans, claiming the legal doctrine of executive privilege.

On Saturday, he seemed to suggest that the memo merely went over ground that had long been discussed within the U.S. government, saying: "This issue has been debated literally going back to the Johnson administration."

In commenting on the letter, Mr. Clinton was clearly trying to deflect criticism from Republicans, including Sen. Dole, that his administration had not done enough to fight drugs.

Republican National Committee Chairman Haley Barbour called on Mr. Clinton Saturday to make freeh's memo public and said the White House had not been telling the truth about its handling of confidential FBI files on former Republican officeholders, the so-called Filegate scandal.

"The Filegate scandal has proven the country cannot expect the truth from this White House," he said in a statement.

"That's why it is crucial for the FBI/DEA memo to be made public, so the people can judge its importance themselves."

Sen. Dole has made drugs a central theme of his campaign, often citing statistics that teen drug use has risen under Mr. Clinton, and running a string of television advertisements attacking the president on the issue.

The Sen. Dole ads make a point of noting that at the start of his presidency Mr. Clinton sharply reduced the office of the drug policy director as part of his effort to reduce government spending.

About three years later Clinton restored funds for the office and named Barry McCaffrey, a heavily decorated army general, to lead it.



President Bill Clinton relaxes at the Chautauqua Book Store on Oct. 5 as he takes a break in his preparations for Sunday's debate with Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole (Reuter photo)

"One of the reasons that I wanted a general who had worked on drug interdiction as drug czar was to try to create a greater sense of coordination between the domestic law enforcement agencies, the military and all the people involved in the prevention and treatment side," he said.

The Clinton campaign has about two dozen advisers gathered here to help him prepare for the 90-minute debate, which will begin at 9 p.m. EDT Sunday (0100 GMT Monday) in Hartford, Connecticut.

The second, and final, debate between the two men before the Nov. 5 election is scheduled for Wednesday Oct. 16 in San Diego, California.

Although national opinion polls show he leads Sen. Dole by 10-20 percentage points, Mr. Clinton has been playing an old political game by playing down his debating prowess to lower expectations in the debate.

On Thursday he claimed to be "apprehensive" and Friday he said former Maine Senator George Mitchell, who was impersonating Sen. Dole in Mr. Clinton's practice sessions, had "beat me like a drum."

Asked Saturday whether he had finally got the better of Sen. Mitchell, Mr. Clinton replied, "Well, I don't know. Maybe I got him to a draw."

Meanwhile, after turning for advice to ex-President George Bush, the only Republican to debate Mr. Clinton, Sen. Dole said Saturday he was ready for the opening presidential debate.

Sen. Dole joked to reporters in a brief photo-call that all he had to do to win Sunday's debate — an encounter aides hope will turn the tide in a lopsided presidential race — was "show up."

When asked if he was nervous, he said, "me!" and then shook his hand in a mock tremor.

Sen. Dole spokesman Nelson Warfield said Mr. Bush flew in on a private plane from Houston to offer Sen. Dole tips on how to debate Mr. Clinton, a man the Republican campaign has painted as a brilliant, masterful, wily debater.

Mr. Bush sat with Sen. Dole and his wife Elizabeth at a poolside table at the Dole's condominium. They discussed Mr. Bush's experiences debating Mr. Clinton three times in the 1992 campaign, debates that the public deemed Mr. Clinton won.

The ex-president diplomatically said he had no tips to offer Sen. Dole, adding, "he knows the issues inside out. He'll do well."

Mr. Bush said of his own debate experience with Mr. Clinton, "I thought I did well, but maybe I didn't."

'Elvis faked death, fled with secret love'

LONDON (R) — Elvis Presley fans who refuse to believe their rock star hero is dead received a fresh boost when a British Sunday newspaper claimed the singer had faked his death in 1977 and instead fled with a secret lover. The People, a downmarket tabloid, said in a front-page story two close aides to Presley, known to millions of fans around the world as "the king," had broken a long silence to explain that he paid a terminally ill double to be buried in his place. The singer has been assumed to have died of heart failure aged 42, heavily overweight and addicted to prescription drugs, on Aug. 16, 1977 and been buried at Graceland, his luxurious mansion in Memphis, Tennessee. But many fans remain unconvinced and there are several reported sightings every year. There are even those who believe Presley was abducted by space aliens. The People quoted "respected Elvis aide" Marty Lacker and Presley's cousin Billy Smith as saying the star had in fact vanished to start a new life with a wealthy woman called Maria. The two men said Presley, increasingly disillusioned with his life as a star, paid a terminally ill man called Scott to have plastic surgery to turn him into his double. "I wish I could be someone else living a normal life. I'm tired of all the pressure, tired of all these damn pills and people pulling on me," the men quoted him as saying. Lacker and Smith said they left envelopes stuffed with cash to be picked up by Scott's family to help them survive after he died. Neither man ever met the double, however. In the early hours of Aug. 16 Maria smuggled Scott, then on the verge of death, into Graceland while Elvis made good his plans for escape. "He was excited. He laughed and told me: 'I'll be calling you later. I never saw him again,'" Billy told the newspaper, saying Scott was subsequently buried in Presley's place.

Michael Jackson to perform in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — American pop icon Michael Jackson will make his first concert appearance in Malaysia on Oct. 27, organisers said Sunday. The superstar will perform at the sprawling Shah Alam Stadium in central Selangor state, his local promoter Syed Yusof Nasir of Jojo Entertainment said in a statement to the Bernama news agency. The organisers did not say whether government approval had been obtained. Predominantly-Muslim Malaysia, which frowns on rock concerts, had banned a Jackson concert scheduled for Oct. 1 last year, citing fears over "negative activities linked to such concerts."

S. Korea plans sex town to lure tourists

SEOUL (R) — A South Korean city plans to convert its red-light district into a so-called sex town of adult theatres and sex shops to boost tourism, a Seoul newspaper reported Sunday. The Dong-A Ilbo quoted an official in the provincial city of Taegu, about 230 kilometres south of the capital, as saying the plan was part of a five-year scheme to promote tourism in the city. Taegu's racy proposal, however, faces stiff criticism from feminist groups and the city is to hold public hearings until the end of the year on whether or not to implement the plan. South Korea, which generally considers public displays of sex a taboo subject, prohibits sales of pornographic material including home video movies and adult magazines.

Seoul scales down hunt for North Korean fugitives

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean troops have scaled down their hunt for the last three fugitives from a stranded North Korea submarine to beef up vigilance against possible provocations by the north, military officials said Sunday.

"Many trackers have been sent back to their units along the border with North Korea," a Defence Ministry official told AFP.

He did not say how many soldiers are now engaged in the hunt, which had involved up to 60,000 troops and police since the submarine ran aground

off South Korea on Sept. 18 with 26 people aboard.

In the sweep, 22 infiltrators have been shot dead or found dead, apparently executed by colleagues, one has been captured and three fugitives are believed still at large.

The incursion heightened tension between the two Koreas, which have been technically at war since the Korean war in the early 1950s, with Pyongyang threatening retaliation.

On Sunday, Pyongyang renewed its threat through its official media, denouncing South Korea for seeking

a "war gamble" in league with outside forces referring to some 37,000 U.S. troops stationed in the South.

"This war gamble is an open challenge and provocation to the North," the North's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

"If they persist in reckless war moves against the North, we will deal a telling blow at them. Nothing but defeat and death the provokers will get," the North warned.

Dutroux hints lead Belgian police to old coal mine

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Investigators Saturday suspended their searches of an underground tunnel at one of the properties of convicted child rapist Marc Dutroux, at the centre of a probe into a suspected paedophile ring.

Belgian police said the search in the southern town of Jumet, launched Friday after Dutroux described the site as "interesting," was long and difficult, but they plan to resume their hunt Sunday.

Dutroux is charged with kidnapping six girls between June 1995 and August 1996, four of whom have been found dead in properties he owned near Charleroi.

"We had to stop because of a lack of oxygen" in the tunnel, which was once a coal mine, a police commander told private Belgian television network RTL-TVI.

The passage, about two kilometres long and low-ceilinged, is cold and filled with about 20 centimetres of water. Its brick arches threaten to tumble at the least disturbance.

"We are searching, but we don't know what we're looking for," said Commander Dominique Legros, a spokesman for Charleroi police.

Dutroux and his wife Michele Martin were driven to the Jumet property Friday under escort. There they

described where they could have hidden material linked to their criminal activities.

"He (Dutroux) simply described the passage and said that the Neufchateau Investigators (leading the inquiry) must come here. That's all," Mr. Legros said.

"We don't know what we could come across, weapons perhaps," since his arrest on Aug. 13, Dutroux has twice before given hints to investigators about where they should search, leading them to the bodies of eight-year-olds Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo and on a later occasion to the remains of Eefje Lambrechts, 19, and An Marchal, 17.

Queen said to have ordered suicide watch on Fergie

LONDON (R) — A British newspaper reported Sunday that Queen Elizabeth had ordered a round-the-clock suicide watch on the troubled Duchess of York, who was distraught over mounting personal problems.

The people quoted unnamed friends as saying the former Sarah Ferguson, known widely as Fergie and divorced from the queen's second son Prince Andrew, had spent hours "weeping hysterically" behind her locked bedroom door.

Fergie has become a favourite target of the tabloid press, which is devoting large amounts of space to details about her financial problems and allegedly voracious sexual appetite.

"It doesn't seem possible that one person could survive so much humiliation," a royal source told the people.

Revelations by a former spiritual adviser that the duchess had at least two affairs while married to Prince Andrew have been serialised in several tabloid newspapers.

The Sunday Times said the queen had summoned a crisis meeting this month to discuss what could be done to prevent the duchess from further damaging the image of the royal family.

The newspaper said the queen was "deeply concerned" and had taken legal advice on how Prince Andrew could restrain his wife, including whether he could gain custody of the couple's young daughters, Beatrice and Eugenie. It said the queen, husband Prince Philip and other royals would discuss limiting Fergie's access to staff at Buckingham Palace and whether she should retain her title of duchess. She lost the prefix her royal highness when she divorced.

In an editorial headlined "The Duchess Of Damage", the paper condemned Ferguson's "puerile nature and incontinent ways" and said she was apparently trying to turn the royal family into an international laughing stock.

"She is beyond tolerance and reason...there should be no more tolerance of the errant duchess. In another age she would have lost her head. Today she should at least lose her title."

On Thursday Fergie pulled out of an attempt to prevent publication of a book that threatened to reveal intimate details of her affair with her former "financial adviser," John Bryan.

While still married to Prince Andrew, Fergie was photographed frolicking with Bryan, an American, in the south of France as her two young daughters looked on.

An infamous picture of Bryan sucking the toe of the topless duchess was splashed across newspapers and magazines worldwide.

The Mail On Sunday newspaper said Princess Margaret, the queen's sister, had sent Fergie a bitter letter last year accusing her of shaming the royal family.

"You have done more to bring shame on the family than ever could have been imagined," the paper quoted Margaret as writing to Fergie after the duchess had sent her flowers.

"Not once have you bled your head in embarrassment even for a minute after those disgraceful photographs. Clearly you have never considered the damage you are causing us all," the handwritten letter said.

"How dare you discredit us like this and how dare you send me those flowers."

2 dead by missile in Danish biker war

COPENHAGEN (R) — A man and a woman died and at least 17 people were injured when a shoulder-fired anti-tank missile slammed into a Hell's Angels Biker Gang Party in the Danish capital early Sunday, police said.

Police said they would not name the dead until relatives had been informed. Three of the injured were in serious condition.

The attack appeared to be the latest in a turf war in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland between the Hell's Angels and the rival Bandidos biker gang.

Copenhagen police murder squad Chief Kurt Jensen told reporters at the scene that the weapon used was a Swedish-made Carl Gustav shoulder-fired anti-tank missile, unleashed from a yard across the street into the back of the building.

Mr. Jensen said that the rocket sliced through a beer tent set up in the backyard of the heavily-fortified Hell's Angels clubhouse in the capital's blue-collar Noerrebro district before hitting a corner of the building.

Police immediately launched raids on known Bandidos gang members throughout Denmark. A Bandidos member was arrested in July after a bungled bomb attempt on the Noerrebro clubhouse in which a six-kg bag of explosives was buried from a speeding car but failed to explode.

Police recently hanned parking in the vicinity of the building, fearing a car bomb attack.

The annual "Viking Party" at the clubhouse was attended by at least 300 people, some of them visiting Hell's Angels from other countries, and had been under increased police surveillance at the time of the attack.

Asked how the perpetrators had fired their weapon and made their getaway despite the police presence, Mr. Jensen replied: "That's a good question."

He said the spent launcher and another containing a live missile ready for firing were found nearby and were of a type compatible with 12 stolen from a military weapons store in neighbouring Sweden in February 1994.

Missiles identified as from the stolen batch were fired at two Hell's Angels clubhouses in Denmark last April.

There was no visible damage from Sunday's attack to the front of the building but neighbours said the attack, shortly after 0100 GMT, made a huge bang and set off the alarms of cars parked in the neighbourhood.

'Elvis faked death with secret love'

LONDON (R) — Presley fans who believe their rock star is dead received a boost when a British newspaper claimed singer had faked his death in 1977 and moved to a secret love island. A document, said in a long story, two close friends of Presley, known as "the King", had long known of his plan to fake his death and move to a secret island. The singer had been assumed to have died of heart failure after a long illness, but the document claimed he had faked his death and moved to a secret island. The document, said in a long story, two close friends of Presley, known as "the King", had long known of his plan to fake his death and move to a secret island. The singer had been assumed to have died of heart failure after a long illness, but the document claimed he had faked his death and moved to a secret island.

Michael Jackson to perform in Malaysia

Tigers have already escalated their hit-and-run attacks against security forces following the fall of Kilinochchi after a battle that claimed the lives of 255 soldiers and an estimated 700 rebels, officials said.

S. Korea plans sex town for tourists

The Tigers, who are leading a protracted campaign for independence in the island's north-east, hit back by attacking an army bunker line in the north of the country Saturday, killing four soldiers, the ministry said.

Sri Lanka goes on red alert for suicide bombers

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka was placed on maximum alert amid reports that up to 25 women suicide bombers had infiltrated the capital as troops consolidated in a former Tamil rebel bastion, officials said Sunday.

Colombo's police chief, deputy inspector-general, M. B. Dissanayake said there was information that suicide cadres of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had arrived here to cause "disruption."

"Security has been strengthened after these reports," Gen. Dissanayake said adding that they were also seeking public cooperation for information about suspicious people in their neighbourhoods.

The latest alert came as thousands of government soldiers strengthened defences at the northern town of Kilinochchi, the final major population centre under rebel control.

Roadblocks and check points are a regular feature in the nervous capital Colombo but more constables and soldiers could be seen here Sunday searching vehicles and checking identity papers. Police have already issued more than a dozen identikit pictures of men and women, drawn up following off-shoots after the devastating Jan. 31 bombing of the central bank here in which 91 people were killed.

The Tiger guerrillas use their suicide bombers, known as black Tigers, with deadly results and cause heavy losses among military and civilian targets.

Extra security measures in the capital were prompted by the army's victory in Kilinochchi which sparked fears that the guerrillas may resort to devastating revenge attacks against civilians.

Tiger guerrillas exploded a land mine and ambushed a military bus in the eastern district of Batticaloa Saturday, wounding at least 14 soldiers and an officer, local officials said.

They said another mine was found and defused in the same district Saturday but tiger guerrillas hiding in the area opened fire at troops. A woman who was caught up in the crossfire was killed, officials said.

The Defence Ministry said that the navy engaged two oger boats in the island's north and sank one of them killing at least one rebel.

The Tigers, who are leading a protracted campaign for independence in the island's north-east, hit back by attacking an army bunker line in the north of the country Saturday, killing four soldiers, the ministry said.



Some of 300 Taiwan and Hong Kong activists chant anti-Japan slogan behind a banner which reads "Diaoyu Islands belong to China" during a rally in Taipei Sunday. The group of activists will sail in a flotilla of 30 boats to challenge Japan's claim to disputed East China Sea islands group, the Diaoyus or Senkakus (Reuter photo)

Taiwan and Hong Kong activists set sail in Diaoyu Islands protest

TAIPEI (R) — More than 300 Taiwanese and Hong Kong activists set off Sunday on a protest voyage in a flotilla of 30 boats to challenge Japan's claim to a group of disputed islands in the East China Sea.

They left from two northeastern harbours of Wanli and Sheng-Ao after a morning rally, state television showed.

Taiwanese activists threw 10,000 beer bottles into the sea carrying messages in Chinese, English and Japanese declaring Taiwan's sovereignty over the islands.

The state-run Central News Agency said the activists completed their "10,000 bottles sailing together" move about 48 kilometres off Taiwan's northeastern harbour of Sheng-Ao, and they expect the silent messengers to reach Japan within three weeks.

"The move is to announce to the world the fact that the Diaoyu Islands are our territory," the China Times newspaper quoted legislator Fu Kung-Cheng, one of the leaders, as saying.

At the rally, activists chanting "beat Japanese militarism, protect the Diaoyu Islands," vowed they would try to land on the islands but would not battle Japan's patrol ships.

Protest leader Kim Chieh-Shou told state television that when the ships were 15 miles from the islands they would form a single line and "thrust toward the diaoyus, breaking through the Japanese ships' siege... If we cannot break through, we will... throw eggs at the Japanese ships."

Another 20 boats carrying some 170 journalists and observers were expected to join the flotilla, the television station said.

The flotilla was to sail Sunday evening and was expected to reach the islands, which are claimed by Taiwan and China as the Diaoyus and by Japan as the Senkakus, Monday morning.

If they succeed in landing on the islands, the Hong Kong protesters will tear down a makeshift lighthouse erected by Japanese right-wingers and the Taiwanese will hoist their national flag, the protesters said.

But local newspapers said Japan was ready for the challenge. The China Times quoted Taiwan Representative Office officials in Tokyo as saying Japan had dispatched 74 more patrol ships to the islands in two groups of 37 each.

The United Daily News said a reporter it sent to a Japanese port near the Diaoyus saw 14 patrol ships, and that 12 of them were armed with machineguns.

On Saturday, the Taiwanese government rejected a request by the activists for protection during their voyage, but said Marine Police would stand by to help them if they were needed.

"In case any emergency or accident occurs, we will save them," said Vice-Interior Minister Yang Pao-Fa.

On Sept. 26 Hong Kong activist David Chan drowned after jumping off a protest ship that had been kept from landing on the islands, which lie 200 kilometre northeast of Taiwan.

Taiwanese officials said the protesters were not entitled to police protection because fishing boats are not allowed to ferry passengers and pleasure boats do not receive protection more than 24 nautical miles from Taiwan's shores.

The dispute over cluster of the uninhabited but potentially resource-rich islands flared in July when right-wingers built a lighthouse on one of them to bolster Japan's claim to sovereignty.

Japan has refused to acknowledge that the dispute is still open for discussion with China. Tokyo's claim dates to 1895 when it defeated China and seized Taiwan and other territories. China has claimed the islands for centuries.

In Tokyo, the Japanese government sought to ease tensions Friday by saying it would not recognise the lighthouse built by the right-wingers as part of its maritime safety system.

Lebed has new proposals for NATO

BRUSSELS (R) — Russia's controversial security chief Alexander Lebed, in Brussels on his first visit to the West, said Sunday he would put new proposals to NATO to help solve a dispute over alliance plans to expand eastwards.

Gen. Lebed, on a two-day visit to the headquarters of Russia's former cold war foe, has argued that NATO expansion to its frontiers would rekindle old hostilities in Europe.

But the gravel-voiced general adopted a more moderate tone in comments to journalists on arrival at Brussels airport. His aim, he said, was to pursue "a complicated, but civilised dialogue" with the alliance over its future plans.

"Yes, there are some new proposals, but first of all they are intended for the ears of Mr. Solana," he said.

Gen. Lebed, President Boris Yeltsin's security adviser, was due to meet NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana Monday.

Gen. Lebed, wearing a wide-lapelled black Russian trenchcoat, said he wanted to learn at first hand NATO's intentions in expanding eastwards. "We will evaluate the situation from the point of view of Russia's interests and security," he said.

Gen. Lebed, who has caused a stir with outspoken comments on European security issues, complained he had been widely misinterpreted in the West.

"Some commentators of ill-will have been saying that Lebed is threatening NATO with nuclear weapons, and saying Russia is ready to occupy some of these countries if there is the slightest move of NATO to the east."

"These are the worst fairy tales of the cold war," he said.

The reserve general is due to have intensive talks at the political and military nerve centres of the organisation created to defend the West against a Soviet military offensive.

NATO diplomats have been busily preparing the ground for Gen. Lebed's trip — his first outside the now-defunct Soviet Union and Afghanistan where he was on active duty. He says in the past he had been banned from travel because he knew too many secrets.

Asked how he felt on arriving in the West for the first time, the 46-year-old former paratrooper remained stony-faced.

"I have no special feelings, I feel comfortable wherever I am, including the West."

The NATO diplomats have stressed the informal, fact-finding nature of the visit, and say it falls within



Russian security supremo Alexander Lebed is seen as he arrives at Aelberg Airport in Brussels Sunday for a visit to NATO Headquarters Monday. Gen. Lebed said he intended to open a "complicated but civilised dialogue" with alliance leaders over their plans to expand into former Communist Europe (Reuter photo)

the wider scope of increased contacts between the two sides, particularly Russia's involvement in the alliance-led peace mission in Bosnia.

NATO has suggested a new charter, or treaty, to govern all aspects of its relations with Russia which it says could be negotiated in tandem with talks on membership for countries in Eastern and Central Europe.

The first wave of new members, expected to include former Warsaw pact members Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, will be announced at a special NATO heads of state summit next year.

Russian fears, however, more countries will also apply for membership, including the former Soviet Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

On Tuesday, Gen. Lebed will visit NATO's military headquarters at Mons in southern Belgium, where he will meet Supreme Allied Commander in Europe (SACEUR), U.S. General George Joulwan.

Mass held at sea for Peru crash victims

ON BOARD PERUVIAN NAVY SHIP MONTERO (R) — Hundreds of mourners held a mass Saturday in the Pacific Ocean off Peru's coast, where a Boeing 757-200, crashed, this, week, killing all 70 on board.

Catholic Bishop Miguel Irizar, from the port of El Callao where the navy frigate left, led the ceremony as relatives of the victims scattered flowers on the surface of the sea about 95 miles (150 km) northwest of the coast off Lima.

Most of the relatives were from Chile, which lost 30 people in Wednesday's tragedy, while Peruvians, Mexicans and Ecuadorians were also on board to mourn their victims.

"Ocean, today as I ride across your waves, I ask you to hug and embrace my loved ones," said a tearful Maria Ketchner, whose daughter and son-in-law died in the crash on their way back from a honeymoon in Miami.

The 70 dead also included passengers from the United States, Italy, great Britain, New Zealand, Spain, Colombia and Venezuela.

Meanwhile, rescue operations entered their fourth day as a navy-led team of helicopters, frigates and private boats, which has been scouring the crash site since dawn Wednesday, continued to search the waters for bodies and debris.

"We are still looking, but I don't expect we'll find any more bodies until the special team arrives from the United States to look for the sunken fuselage," said Navy Commander Jorge Teixeira.

By early evening Saturday, only 14 bodies had been recovered floating on the surface of the sea. The majority of the other dead passengers were still trapped 180 metres below the surface in the trunk of the plane.

Rescuers continued, however, to fish out clothes, shoes, and personal documents floating on the icy waters.

Aeropero officials said a private U.S. company had been contracted to help reach the main body of the plane and extract the "black box" flight recorder and remaining corpses.

The U.S. team and equipment were to arrive late Saturday.

The Peruvian government has blamed the accident on technical faults which made

the computers aboard the plane "go crazy," leaving Pilot Eric Schreiber without instruments as he struggled to return through dense fog to Lima after taking off for the Chilean capital, of Santiago.

But a 12-member investigative team from Boeing, engine maker Pratt Whitney, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board, has so far reserved judgment.

Boeing representatives insist it is premature to determine the cause of the crash. As well as Saturday's mass, Aeropero planned to fly some of the victims' relatives over the sight of the crash.

Wednesday's accident came seven months after a Boeing 727, belonging to local Faucett Airline crashed and killed all 123 people on board near Peru's second city, Arequipa.

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309 - PANG PANG CHICKEN	2.200	362 - BEEF WITH SWEET & SOUR SAUCE	1.900
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311 - SPRING (EGG) ROLL	1.000	363 - FRIED PRAWNS	6.000
312 - FRIED CHICKEN BALL	3.000	364 - PRAWNS WITH GINGER & GARLIC	6.000
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322 - PILLET MUSHROOM BEEF STEAK	2.800	373 - WHOLE FISH WITH SWEET & SOUR SAUCE	4.000
323 - PILLET ONION BEEF STEAK	2.800	374 - FRIED WHOLE FISH	5.500
324 - CHICKEN SPECIAL SIZZLING STEAK	4.500	375 - WHOLE FISH WITH BEAN SAUCE	5.500
325 - CHICKEN SPECIAL SIZZLING STEAK	4.500	376 - WHOLE FISH WITH SWEET & SOUR SAUCE	5.500
326 - EGG FRIED RICE	1.500		
327 - SHRIMPS FRIED RICE	1.800	378 - CRISPY SKIN OUCK	9.750
328 - BEEF FRIED RICE	1.800	379 - OUCK WITH CHINESE SAUCE	7.850
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342 - BEAN SPROUTS	1.800	392 - KUNG BAO CUTTLE FISH	4.200
343 - MUSHROOMS	2.000	393 - KUNG BAO CABBAGE	2.000
		394 - SELED BEEF WITH FRIED CRISP RICE	3.800
344 - LEMON CHICKEN	2.000	395 - THREE TYPES OF MEAT WITH FRIED CRISP RICE	3.800
345 - ORANGE CHICKEN	2.000	396 - DICED CHICKEN WITH FRIED CRISP RICE	2.400
346 - KUNG - BAO CHICKEN	2.300	397 - SHRIMPS & GREEN BEANS WITH FRIED CRISP RICE	3.500
347 - SPICY FRIED CHICKEN	2.000	398 - STAMED OUMPLONG	2.400
348 - CHICKEN WITH CASHEW NUTS	2.500	399 - CHICKEN WITH GINGER	2.000
349 - SWEET & SOUR CHICKEN	1.200	400 - CRISPY BEEF	2.500
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Editor-in-Chief:
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Hot line from Ankara

TURKISH PRIME Minister Necmettin Erbakan's visit to Libya has raised many an eyebrow in Ankara and ruffled some feathers in several Western capitals, mainly Washington.

Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, Mr. Erbakan's conservative coalition partner, was among the first to voice her reservations about the visit to Tripoli apparently in deference to U.S. objections to any deals with Colonel Muammar Qadhafi and in "compliance" with the U.N. sanctions slammed on that Arab country for its refusal to hand over two of its citizens who are suspected of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over Scotland in 1988.

But this is not the first time that Turkey's first Islamist leader has caused consternations among Turkey's friends, including his own coalition government. His visit to Libya has not been the first act of defiance against the U.S.

Several weeks ago Erbakan angered the Americans when he made a trip to Iran and struck controversial economic deals with the Tehran leadership.

The prime minister has shrugged off opposition to his visit to Libya by maintaining that its primary objective is to serve the commercial interests of his economically beleaguered country which had suffered a great deal of harm as a result of the Gulf crisis and the imposition of U.N. sanctions against Iraq. Turkey is also interested in collecting old debts from Libya of nearly \$400 million.

It is one thing, however, to hear objections from outside circles about the maverick policies of the new Turkish leader and quite another to see prominent figures within his own cabinet speaking openly against his policies. The uneasy alliance between his Rafah Party and his foreign minister's True Path Party appears to be encountering more difficulties and becoming more vulnerable to a breakdown every passing day. What glued the two diametrically opposed parties together seems to be coming apart at the seams. But this remains a basically internal problem even though the foreign policies of the country have become fuzzy and confusing at best.

What should be of real interest at this stage are the implications of the determination of a key North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) partner country to contact two states often accused of abetting international terrorism. Strengthening economic and trade ties with Tehran and Tripoli would naturally lead to better political relations, which could weaken the regimes of sanctions against them.

The case against Tripoli in particular appears to be lacking credibility since many states have legislations that preclude the extradition of their own nationals to foreign jurisdictions to face trials. Many sincere efforts were made to arrive at a happy solution to the conflict between Libyan laws and those of countries seeking the surrender of the suspected Libyans but none of them has borne fruit more than eight years after the tragic Pan Am explosion over Lockerbie. As long as the two Libyans in question are still suspect and not convicted people, though, the unusually harsh sanctions imposed on the Arab country strike us as disproportionate. Instead of maintaining the deadlock over the trial of the two Libyans and frustrate attempts to incriminate the real culprits, a more determined effort should be exerted to try the accused in a neutral country. At least this way, the Libyans in question would either be exonerated or convicted once and for all and the chapter on Libya would be closed.

Erbakan's improved relations with Col. Qadhafi could be channelled into that direction with a view to putting an end to the suffering of many innocent Libyans. If Ankara can succeed in this effort, the visit of the Turkish prime minister to Tripoli would become even more defensible both domestically and internationally. Turkey should be united behind its new leader instead of jeopardising his efforts to break ranks with some major capitals over Libya, especially when it is done for a good cause for both Turkey and the world.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE PRESENCE of pollution in the Zarqa Governorate was Sunday the focus of attention of Al Ra'i Arabic daily columnist Nazih who said that this governorate suffers from pollutants coming to it from outside its boundaries, with serious consequences on the health of its residents. The writer said that Zarqa Governorate is polluted by the waste dump at Ruseifa, by the Jordan Petroleum Refinery, by the waste water treatment plant, with its stench and, finally, the remains of the phosphate mines at Ruseifa, whose dust continues to cover parts of the governorate. Despite the many promises from the concerned officials, about measure to be taken to address the situation and end the sufferings of the local residents, nothing has materialised, the writer pointed out. Indeed, he said, the pollution problem is characteristic for the whole governorate and it would be unreasonable to expect Zarqa to deal with this issue all by itself, especially that some sources of pollution come from outside the boundaries of this governorate. The writer demanded that the areas which are the source of pollution take measures and deal with the situation in order to safeguard public safety.

Economic Review

Stand firm or go negotiating into the 22nd century

IT WAS obvious from the events of the past weeks in Jerusalem and Palestine that Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu, true to his Jabotinsky training, believes that he could successfully deal with the Arabs as an imperialist would deal with the backward natives. He stood firm by his words, gave nothing and asked the Arabs to "come around" in return.

His timing is impeccable: the United States, which he berated as an unnecessary ally but that he cannot yet shake off, is in the throes of elections: Clinton, who has been doing great in the polls so far, can lose the election if he upsets the immensely powerful Jewish lobby. Yes, the next few months belong to Netanyahu when it comes to America. However, the U.S. does not hold all the cards and there is a way out of this dilemma.

The Arabs must make credible threats to Israel. The Israelis know that peace with the Arabs does have considerable economic benefits; indeed, one can surmise from the macro-economics news of Israel, that the Israelis were the greatest beneficiaries of the peace agreement. Upsetting the status quo does have a price, and since Israel gained the most from peace, by the same token, it stands to lose the most for forsaking peace. This must be made clear to Israel.

In 1996 and until the elections, the news about most of the economic indicators of the Israeli economy were positive. After the bombing and the win of the Netanyahu's collection of extremists, who won because they stressed the need for security, the economic indicators became mixed. Public consumption, which was high because of consumer optimism, has recently slowed down, and tourism income dropped significantly. Industrial production, which had increased at a monthly rate of 0.9 per cent in 1995, is presently increasing at only 0.5 per cent a month. Israel's unemployment rate, which was close to full employment at 6 per cent in 1995, is rising again and is expected to increase beyond the present rate of 6.2 per cent (Netanyahu's government expects to receive 100,000 Jewish immigrants per year for the next ten years).

With the increase in building activity, especially on Arab lands, the sale of building materials should increase. In the long run, however, Israel will clearly suffer as investors are moving already out of medium- and long-term investments to short-term ones, thereby signalling their lack of trust in the present Israeli government.

Netanyahu can behave arrogantly towards the Arabs only if he can convince the Israeli voter that there is nothing to lose. The Arabs must convince the Israeli voter that there is a lot to lose. Collectively, Arabs must utilise the words of Adam Smith, which, spoken 220 years ago and even though in a slightly different context, still apply to the present dilemma: "It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own self-interest... (Every individual) intends only his own security, only his own gain."

The Arabs' threat to change the status quo can be made credible by adapting the following approach outlined by two excellent economists and master strategists, Avinash Dixit and Barry Nalebuff in

"Thinking Strategically". This approach should include the following steps to ensure that Arab threats will be heeded by Netanyahu and others that seek to destabilise the region:

— Arabs must establish a reputation for being committed to their strategic moves. It is imperative at this stage of the game that the Arab states with direct interest in the peace process speak as one and take a firm stand. The reputation should serve the Arab states in their later dealings with such a huge and developed economy as that of Israel.

— Agreements should be written and upheld. Backing down on previously ratified agreements destroys the credibility of Arabic negotiators and allows Israel to renege on future agreements. Furthermore, contracts with Israel should stipulate a penalty to the party that breaches them, which can be meted out by a neutral party (almost an impossible quest).

— After a decision is made, all communication should be handled through a third party. Otherwise Israel, which presently holds the lands, will keep renegotiating and never commit itself to an agreement.

Like Tariq Beo Ziyad, William the Conqueror, and Cortes, Arab states must burn their ships behind them. In other words, use the strategy: "These are our requests (past agreements) and they must be met in full, otherwise the agreements are null and void." In the words of Mark Twain in Pudd'nhead Wilson, as quoted in Thinking Strategically: "Behold the fool saith, 'put out your eggs in one basket,' but the wise man saith, 'put all your eggs in one basket and watch that basket'."

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

— The outcome of cheating (not keeping one's side of the bargain) must be left beyond the control of the Arab team. In other words, should Israel decide to renege on its agreements with the Arabs, the outcome should be automatic and unstoppable, like the infundable, for example.

— Progress must be made in stages to ensure that commitments are honoured. This has already been accomplished through separate peace negotiations where Israel was to show good faith at every negotiation step, something which was rejected by Netanyahu and his cohort.

— The Arab countries must utilise teamwork, which enables small countries to negotiate effectively with Israel. This may be an impossibility because of the way we do things. However, a small council can be formed whose sole responsibility is to coordinate and negotiate on behalf of all the Arab countries involved. Of course cheaters must be punished by the team, otherwise, cheating occurs whenever private interest supersedes that of the team.

All the above ingredients may not be available to the negotiating countries; however, awareness of the benefits of such factors and the necessity for utilising them is at the heart of a successful negotiation strategy.

For once, we must stand firm and insist that prior commitments be met in full. Otherwise, with the Israelis controlling the land and welfare of Palestinians, the best scenario we can hope for is that negotiations will last into the twenty second century and that is not good enough.

Human Rights File

Not lack of arms, but peace, is security guarantee

By Waleed M. Sadi

DURING THE recent violent armed clashes between Israeli troops and the Palestinians, some Palestinian policemen shot back at Israeli soldiers, killing and wounding a number of them. This intervention by armed Palestinian police alarmed Israel to the point that some circles close to Israeli Prime Minister Be'Yamin Netanyahu started to call for disarming the Palestinian police force altogether.

What scared the Israeli military machine most, though, is not only the willingness of Palestinian police to defend their people from Israel's army but rather the implications of this military intervention by the Palestinian side. After all, the Palestinian police who shot back at Israeli soldiers did so without leaving the territory under Palestinian National Authority and acted in self-defence rather than in a belligerent and aggressive way against Israeli soldiers who moved to quell stone-throwing Palestinian demonstrators.

What probably caused anxiety among the Israelis, therefore, is the potential threat that some 80,000 armed Palestinian militia could pose to their internal security. The full impact of any such threat could be easily estimated in case war broke out again between Israel and one or two of its Arab neighbours, for one reason or another.

With nearly a hundred thousand armed Palestinians posted in or near the heartland of Israel, the ability of Israel to wage unimpeded war would naturally be compromised. This, I suggest, is what concerns Israel most.

Of course, there is nothing that Israel can now do to forcibly disarm the thousands of armed Palestinian policemen short of an all out attack, on the scale that Chechnya witnessed in the past year or two. The Chechen conflict demonstrated that armed guerrillas can wreak havoc even within the forces of a well-armed army, belonging to a superpower that deployed every conceivable kind of sophisticated weaponry to defeat itself. To be sure, there were many casualties among the Chechen forces. But it was also true that an organised army as powerful as the Russians' did not succeed in containing completely the Chechen fighters in spite of the overwhelming military superiority that it enjoyed.

Of course the Chechen terrain is different from that of the Israeli-West Bank territory and the Chechen fighters are of a breed of their own. Still, the military potential of thousands of Palestinians, should worse come to worst, is incalculable.

The scenario of another war in the region may appear far-fetched for the time being, given the fact that the entire world is determined to make a success of the peace process. Yet, in the event the process collapses, for one reason or another, and tension in the area replaces prospects for peace, everything is possible, including the breakout of another major military conflict.

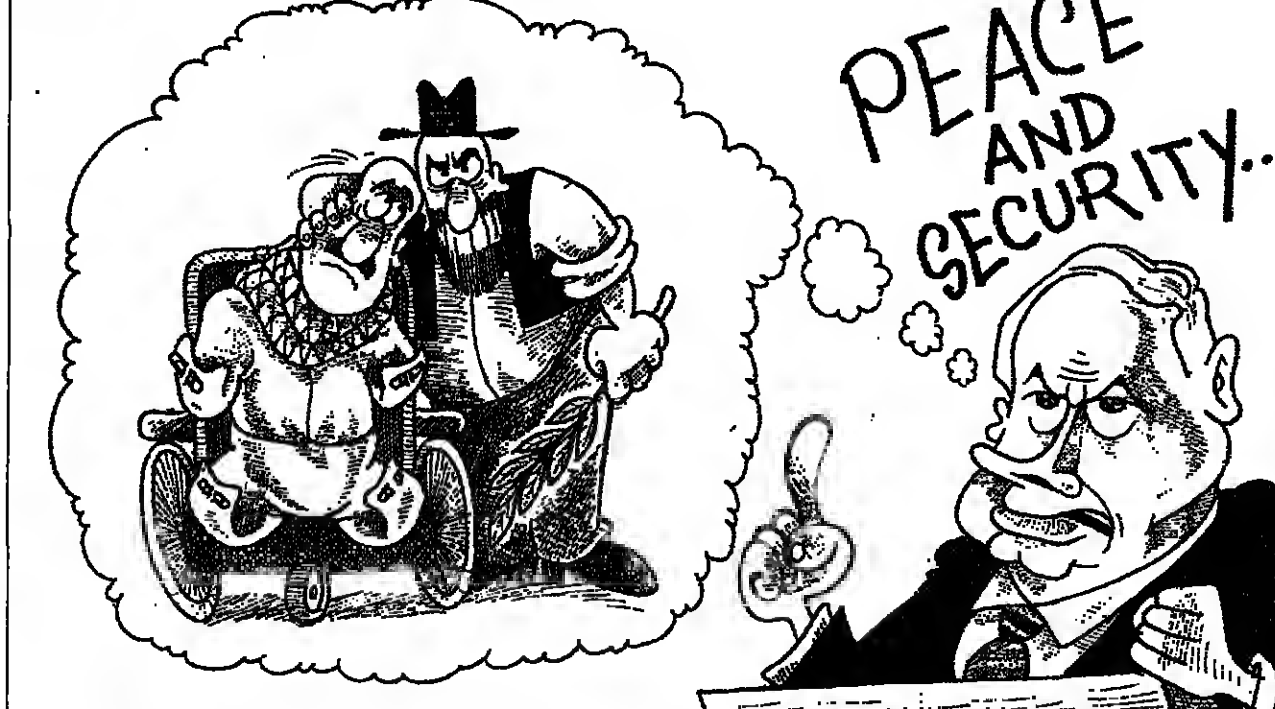
With Syria still in state of war with Israel, and in the absence of complete peace between Israel and all its Arab neighbours, including the Palestinians, any potential conflict's outcome could be disastrous. And an Egyptian military involvement should not be ignored either. The Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty cannot be counted on to completely stop an Egyptian military participation in any major regional war.

History is full of examples where states enjoying friendly relations suddenly find themselves engulfed in a bloody war. Normalisation of relations or the signing of peace treaties in themselves are no insurance against the breakout of conflicts. This means that the countries of the Middle East need to cement formal peace with confidence-building measures that would make the resort to force unimaginable. Here in the Middle East, nothing short of complete and comprehensive peace can attain its objective. That is why Israel should strive to speed up peace talks not only with the Palestinians but also with Syria and Lebanon in order to complete the circle of peace in the region.

This is not a mission impossible. The groundwork for an effective and comprehensive peace regime has begun. What is missing is the completion of the peace process that was ushered in by the Madrid conference in 1991. Instead of aiming at disarming the Palestinians police at a very high and unaffordable cost to both sides, Israel should aim at disarming the hearts and minds of the Palestinians of all hostility towards it. This objective cannot be accomplished unless the Palestinians are assured that they and all future generations can live in peace.

The Madrid conference provided the formula and the mechanism to do just that and the Israeli prime minister is called upon to free himself from archaic complexes, as well as from the counsel of extremists in his government, in order to finish what his predecessors had started.

M. KAHIL



Reform props up Russian army

MOSCOW (R) — The sound of shovels, echoed under the Moscow ring road as a squad of teenaged army conscripts laboured to shore up a crumbling Soviet-era flyover. They had not been paid since July. Even when they are, it is just \$25 a month. Yet they plodded on, in grubby khaki and clumsy boots, propping up with true Russian patience the slowly collapsing structure of the once mighty Soviet army.

That patience may be about to snap, says Alexander Lebed, the paratrooper drafted in as Kremlin security chief in June.

Mr. Lebed, who was flying to Brussels Sunday for talks with Moscow's old enemy NATO, has warned of mutiny in the ranks if the government does not start paying its debts to the military.

Yet few expect a mass rising by the long-suffering troops — the army is divided, its men resigned, its officers loyal. But there are

fears of crime, theft of weapons and equipment and desertion. Suicide is on the rise.

Mr. Lebed's typically outspoken alarm helped elicit a review of current defence spending at the first meeting Friday of a new defence council which made a start on a long-delayed overhaul of Russia's oversized and underfunded armed forces.

"I am taking this issue under special control," said President Boris Yeltsin, who is in hospital preparing for heart surgery. "Russia must have a modern and professional army. Serving in it must be a source of respect and prestige."

Mr. Yeltsin promised during this year's re-election campaign to end conscription by 2000 — a vote-winning move after the carnage among teenagers in Chechnya — and to create a new-looking all-professional army geared to the post-cold war world.

LETTERS

A matter of taste alone?

To the Editor:

READING Ramiz Batarseh's letter "Riding the waves" (Jordan Times, Oct. 6, 1996), one is faced with a case of waving through a ride, rather than riding the waves.

It is most fascinating to read about the representation of complex issues in such an alienated manner. It is rather important to draw Mr. Batarseh's attention to the fact that he has mixed up far too many issues together, ranging from development to tourism. More importantly, there seems to be clear misjudgement of the Jordanian official attempts to alleviate poverty in cooperation with international agencies.

Mr. Batarseh could have checked with the many international bodies and set the record straight regarding the information available about the poverty pockets in Jordan. Is Mr. Batarseh aware, of HRH Crown Prince Al Hassan's visit, with James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank, to the area of Shallalat, in Aqaba, which many Jordanians, let alone tourists, know nothing of?

Is Mr. Batarseh unfamiliar with the countless development programmes, initiated and implemented by consecutive governments?

Alas, it seems that it is us, Jordanians, who require national education rather than the visiting foreigners.

There is not one single official visitor to Jordan who is not familiar with the challenges facing us in the socio-economic field, and that is not usually done by the occasional cursory glance at the life of the less privileged. As for Mr. Batarseh's sweeping remark regarding the tourism industry — and I am sure he understands that it is an industry after all — it is worthwhile noting that there are various types of tourists visiting Jordan, each with their own specific taste and private interest. Consequently, we cannot, as Jordanians, control our visitors' taste and interests by taking them to west/east or any other direction of Amman, including a short train journey.

Baker Hiyari
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Features

Book evaluates origins, development and organisation of political party

A fundamental quest: Hizb Al Tahrir and the search for the Islamic Caliphate

By Dr. Suha Taji-Farouki

Published by Grey Seal, London, 1996, 239 pp

AS AN illegal movement which denounces the constitution, refuses to apply for a permit to organise, and vehemently rejects the peace agreement with Israel, Hizb Al Tahrir has proven to be a particularly stubborn thorn in the side of the Jordanian regime. Its sustained agitation for the reestablishment of the Islamic Caliphate in the Kingdom and in neighbouring countries since its creation in Jerusalem in the early 1950s has been echoed more recently in certain Western countries.

While dubbed the fastest growing Muslim group in

Europe, it is the activities of the party's British branch that have drawn particular attention. Several Arab governments recently expressed their satisfaction at the cancellation of the "international khilafa conference" which was to have been held in London earlier this month, masterminded by Omar Bakri Muhammad, the erstwhile Hizb Al Tahrir British branch leader who appears to have transferred the party's central ideas and strategy to his new group, Al Muhajirun.

While in Britain the media and academic community have devoted con-

siderable attention to the impact of Hizb Al Tahrir on British Muslim youth, on race relations within British society and to it as a potential public order problem, in the Arab World interest in the group is typically confined to the concerns of the security services, or to the critique of other Islamist voices, especially those of the mainstream Muslim Brotherhood. Hizb Al Tahrir's historical archival.

As with all proscribed movements, accurate information on the group in the Arab World is difficult to come by, especially in rela-

tion to issues of organisation, membership and strategy. The attempt to produce a comprehensive overview of the group's career and activities is also complicated by the extent of its international distribution, especially in recent years.

It is hence with much interest that the book of Dr. Taji Farouki, lecturer in modern Islam at the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at the University of Durham in England and currently Associate Fellow at the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies in Amman, is introduced to the readers.

It answers many questions about the party, offers a rigorous evaluation of the origins, development and organisation of the movement and a critical analysis of its ideology and strategy. The text draws on a substantial range of internal sources, including party publications and leaflets, as well as interviews carried out by the author with senior party officials and activists in Jordan and the U.K. In the course of the text Dr. Taji Farouki offers a fresh interpretation of Hizb Al Tahrir as a thoroughly modern political force, modelled in its methods of political organisation and mobilisation on forms and patterns characteristic of the new generation of ideological-cum-revolutionary political parties that had emerged in the Arab Middle East starting with the 1930s.

She argues that the originality of its founder, the late Taji Al Din Al Nabhani (1909-1977), is in his use of traditional Islamic discourse to legitimise adoption of the methods and strategies of these new parties, discarding their overwhelmingly secular nationalist orientation in favour of a pan-Islamic one. In addition, the author offers a characterisation of the conception of Islam upheld by Al Nabhani, which underpins the movement's ideology.

She argues that this embodies a transitional phase in the evolution of twentieth century Islamist discourse, reflecting in its theoretical assumptions a way-station between the reformist thought of Al Afghani, "Abduh and Al

BOOK REVIEW

Banna on the one hand, and the radical formulation of Islam made famous by Sayyid Qutb on the other. While Qutb had wavered between the reformist construction of Islam and what

would later be described in contrast as radicalist, the author explains, Al Nabhani expounded an outlook mirroring this transitional phase, reflecting a complex and seminal moment in the political evolution of the Arab World in the years immediately after World War II.

The author maintains that this outlook represented a response to the twilight of colonial rule, upholding peaceful politics and ideological subversion as the path to reinstating Islam through a popular Islamic revolution which would install a Caliph.

The book comprises five chapters. Chapter one surveys the origins and development of the party to date. Chapter two provides a detailed discussion of its ideology, presenting and evaluating Al Nabhani's theology and jurisprudence and outlining his vision of

Musa Keilani

King reiterates Jordan's support

(Continued from page 1)

King Hussein described the results of last week's Washington summit as positive, adding that it resulted in a commitment by the parties concerned to resume the Palestinian-Israeli talks and to discuss all issues at hand and come up with solutions.

It was the first time there was such a commitment, King Hussein said.

King Hussein praised the wisdom and courage of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and called on the Palestinians to rally behind Mr. Arafat's leadership.

Irish foreign minister seeks to secure role

(Continued from page 1)

for the region.

Mr. Spring said on Saturday the EU had made it clear it wanted to play a part. "We have had a dialogue with the U.S. this week. They know we want to be involved," he said.

Mr. Bruton said Mr. Spring's mission would "convey the strongly-held views of all the countries in the European Union in terms of the need to accelerate the peace process and avoid any confrontations that might interfere with it."

Saddam

(Continued from page 1)

in late September.

The banks' action, which is believed to have started last Wednesday or Thursday, earned the dinar what proved to be only a short-lived reprieve, bringing it up to 1,350 dinars to the dollar on Thursday and Friday.

But the value of the dinar, a key indicator of the political and economic mood in Iraq, resumed its decline Sunday, slumping to around 1,540 to the dollar.

The two banks sought to match the rates offered by Baghdad's active money changers and offered clients dollars for 1,500 dinars apiece on Sunday.

The dinar hit an all-time

Erez talks open; Palestinians rule out changes to accords

(Continued from page 1)

from Erez.

Giant cubes of concrete positioned on the road to stop car-bombers coming out the crowded, Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip where Mr. Arafat has his headquarters.

The Palestinians have put their stone-throwing war against the Israelis on hold pending the talks, and Israel has reciprocated by partially lifting the virtual siege it imposed following the gunbattles.

But the people of Nablus, Ramallah, Tulkarem and Qalqiliya remained confined to their cities.

An Israeli official said the lifting of curfews and travel bans were taken to "ease tensions" before the talks.

Another official said President Bill Clinton had let both sides know at last week's summit in Washington that he expected results within 45 days.

Asked by reporters what the main issues were, Mr. Arafat cited the Hebron withdrawal, the need for a corridor linking the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and an airport in Gaza whose opening is being resisted by the Israelis.

He also demanded Israel close the archaeological tunnel near Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem whose opening sparked the gunbattles.

Croats walk out of cantonal assembly

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Croats walked out of a session of Sarajevo's newly-elected cantonal assembly over the weekend, demanding guarantees from the main Muslim party to protect the rights of the city's Croat community. The move illustrated the poor state of relations inside Bosnia's Muslim-Croat federation, which has failed to make political progress since it was founded two years ago. Local media reported on Sunday that three Croat deputies elected to the cantonal assembly signed an inaugural oath on Saturday but then walked out of the session to show their dissatisfaction with Muslim authorities.

Success of magazine for blacks dispels racial myths

By Michael Astor
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — When Brazil's first magazine for blacks sold out in just five days, many people were surprised.

Sure, Brazil has the world's second-largest black population, after Nigeria. But in a society where the magazine-purchasing elite is mostly white, and where many believe that blacks have little buying power or racial pride, who would read it?

Plenty of people, it turned out.

"Raca Brasil" — Portuguese for "Brazil race" — hit newsstands in September and quickly sold all 200,000 copies.

Publishers rushed out 100,000 more.

"The first blacks set foot in Brazil in 1560, so you could say people have been waiting for this magazine for 436 years," Editor-in-Chief Aroldo Macedo said by telephone from Sao Paulo.

With 120 glossy pages and a cover photo of a popular black soap-opera star beside a successful black

model, Raca resembles the U.S. magazine Ebony, but with a tropical tang.

It combines features on local black celebrities and Afro-Brazilian culture with stories on U.S. sports stars Michael Jordan and Dennis Rodman, fashion spreads and lots of hairdressing and make-up tips.

"This is just what we needed. When I open any other magazine I see haircuts for white women, which are of no use to me," Kelly Cavalcante said as she leafed through Raca for the first time.

"Not to be racist, but there are differences," Ms. Cavalcante, a middle-class, black 22-year-old, is part of a market many thought did not even exist.

Of the country's 155 million people, between 45 per cent and 58 per cent — depending on which estimate is used — are black or mixed-race. But dark-skinned Brazilians are conspicuously absent from the upper levels of business, government, religion and politics. The road to the top often seems restricted to sports — Pele, Romario —

50 nations commit to work for landmine ban

(Continued from page 1)

attend the conference. On Friday, the head of the U.S. delegation to the conference, Thomas McNamara, said the United States was committed to a ban but would continue to use the weapons until an international agreement could be reached. He said a call by the international campaign to ban landmines to stop using the devices by the year 2000 was unrealistic. An estimated 110 million mines are buried in more than 60 countries. Nations with the worst

U.S. insists it wants quick results

(Continued from page 1)

preparing for Sunday's debate with Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole.

"These talks (in Gaza) are expected to continue until major outstanding issues are resolved," the White House said. "The United States will do everything possible to assist the parties to achieve early progress."

"Christopher's meetings today with the Israeli and Palestinian leadership demonstrate the commitment of the United States to foster rapid, tangible progress toward lasting peace," it said.

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Activities of Monday Oct. 7, 1996

JERUSALEM DAY

Open invitation to the public to attend the seventh seminar entitled:

The Arabs' Inalienable Rights In Jerusalem

from Oct. 5 to Oct. 8, 1996 at the Royal Cultural Centre - Amman

activities of Monday, Oct. 7, 1996

4:00 p.m.: "Exposure and Critique of the Biblical Traditions about Land Possessions and the Exploitation of these Traditions by Christians in the Past and Zionists Today" - English presentation by the Reverend Dr. Michael Prior, Head of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, St. Mary's University College, Strawberry Hill, United Kingdom.

4:45 p.m.: "Western Scholarship and Silencing of Palestinian History" - English presentation by Professor Keith Whitlam, Department of Religious Studies, University of Sterling, Scotland.

5:45 p.m.: "Zionist Encroachment on Arab Rights in Jerusalem" - Arabic presentation by Professor Hassan Sayyed Suleiman, Head of the Political Sciences Department, Sana'a University.

6:30 p.m.: "Israeli practices against Arab rights in the fields of education in Jerusalem, 1967-1996" - Arabic presentation by Dr. Alai' Al Bitar, Jerusalem Open University.

activities of Tuesday, Oct. 8, 1996

4:00 p.m.: Open dialogue about Jerusalem and the U.N. resolutions. Participants: Dr. Ahmad Nofal, Professor of Political Sciences, Yarmouk University, Dr. George Tomeh, former Syrian Delegate to the United Nations, Dr. Hazem Nuseibeh, former Jordanian Delegate to the United Nations, Dr. Muhammad Al-Farrah, former Jordanian Delegate to the United Nations, Dr. Hani Elias Al Hadithi, International Studies Centre, Baghdad University, Dr. Muhammad Majeed Al-Hizmi, School of Arts, Department of History, Hebron University, Dr. Mustafa Mahmoud Affi, Deputy of the Law School for Higher Studies, Tanta University, Egypt.

6:45 p.m.: Recommendation of the Symposium.

7:00 p.m.: Closing session.

Farmworkers are bottom of the world wage-earning league — ILO

GENEVA (AFP) — Farmworkers are bottom of the league of the world's wage-earners, existing well below the poverty line in most countries, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has said.

The U.N. body said in a report that in 40 per cent of the 45 countries it had reviewed farmworkers did not even receive a subsistence wage. Most had no social security protection and many were at serious risk from pesticides.

The ILO noted that farm labourers on average worked for only 175 days a year, being left virtually without income for the rest of the time. In 18 of the 45 countries covered, real wages had fallen in the past decade and in eight others

they had not progressed.

The report estimated at 440 million the number of wage-earning farmworkers in the world out of a total of 1.1 billion in the sector, a third of them women and another third children in some developing countries.

Nearly 80 per cent are in Asia (60 per cent in China and India alone), followed by 14.3 per cent in Africa and 3.6 per cent in Latin America.

Highlighting the danger from pesticides, the ILO said that even in the United States the U.S. environmental protection agency classed agriculture as one of the three most dangerous activities and put the number of those poisoned each year at tens of thousands.

In Costa Rica, the report

said, 4.5 per cent of the agricultural workforce suffered similarly each year.

The ILO said labourers were also at greater risk from accidents while working or during transport to and from the fields, often packed into trucks in "inhuman" conditions.

The ILO put the subsistence wage level at the ability to pay for a kilogramme of basic food grains with the income from an hour's work.

This capacity varies from five minutes in Sweden to more than six hours in the Central African republic, with India being the average at 37 minutes.

In five out of 12 developing countries with high rural populations that were analysed — Brazil,

Guatemala, Honduras, the Philippines and Zambia — more than half of farmworkers were below this poverty line.

In Egypt, Morocco and Pakistan, the proportion was below 25 per cent, the ILO said.

In the past decade farmworkers' real wages had risen by 30 per cent or more in just six countries, Argentina, Colombia, Cameroon, Nigeria, the Philippines and Sweden, the report said.

The ILO predicted that over the next 10 years the size of the agricultural workforce would continue to rise in the world, but would come down in Eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union.

Emerging economies could play greater role in international bodies

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Emerging nations of Asia and Latin America, who want a bigger say in the international financial institutions, will also have to assume a more prominent role as creditors, finance officials have said.

"Multilateral organisations will have to gradually introduce changes in their decision-making structures if they want to maintain their stature in the future," Venezuelan Finance Minister Luis Raul Matos Azocar told the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank last week.

"It is inconceivable that key decisions affecting the rules and conditions of the international financial and monetary game should continue to be taken without the adequate and representative participation of the emerging countries," he emphasised.

South Korean officials echoed the same concerns — noting in passing that Seoul is preparing for entry

into the organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development by year end.

Emerging Asian nations are likely to post growth of eight per cent this year, while economies in Latin America are predicted to expand by three per cent in 1996 and four per cent in 1997.

Private capital flows to emerging countries amounted to \$170 billion in 1995 and should reach \$225 billion in 1996, according to the International Finance Corporation, a unit of the World Bank.

But if their rapid development and smooth adaptation to the world economy endow such countries with new rights, they will also have to accept new obligations.

Several dynamic Asian economies will be contributing to the doubling of resources available to the IMF in financial emergencies under the new arrangements to borrow (NAB), which should be finalised in the near future.

The NAB will provide the fund with access to some \$50 billion to confront emergency situations, such as the 1994-95 Mexican peso crisis.

And, after having tasted the fruits of development assistance, they will face pressure to join the ranks of the donor countries, notably to help offset part of the shortfall in official assistance to the poorest countries from industrialised nations, especially the United States.

For Belgian Finance Minister Philippe Maystadt, who heads the IMF's policy-making Interim Committee, "fast growing emerging economies that have benefited from exchange rate liberalisation and open markets, will be called on to become more deeply involved" in development aid.

Several emerging countries have also decided to help provide financial support for an IMF-World Bank debt relief plan for the poorest nations.

Indian economy must put people first, says finance minister

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's economic reforms must put people first if the country is to wipe out poverty, the finance minister has said.

Palaniappan Chidambaram told a global investment summit that the government was determined to press ahead with its economic liberalisation programme launched in June 1991.

India already offered the world's best market for investors but economic growth would have to be combined with social justice, he said, arguing the country still had levels of poverty "of the kind Europe

banished 100 years ago."

Mr. Chidambaram told the participants in the "Destination India" conference: "All reforms boil down to people. Five years from today we hope to take 950 million people to what I believe is their rightful place in the world."

"I ask you to look at India. Is there any other part of the globe where there is such a large market under one system of law, accounting, taxes, under one set of rules?" he asked the conference including 300 foreign and domestic business leaders.

The Harvard-educated lawyer, a proponent of

India's sweeping free-market, added: "See India not in a freeze frame but in a motion picture as things are happening every day."

"We have placed on top of the agenda issues which were considered unthinkable two to three years ago, like the opening of the insurance sector, disinvestment in the public sector and deregulation of interest rates in the banking sector," he pointed out.

"We have moved with deliberate speed and taken the process forward," he said. "We are more open and more competitive."

Mr. Chidambaram, whose United Front coalition gov-

ernment took office in June, said further reforms were on the cards to make the country's markets — fuelled by a 200 middle-class earners — even more attractive.

"We have a long way to go," he said. "We have to be more open in trade. There is a need to deregulate more and we are determined to do so."

The finance minister said there would be no U-turn.

"Even 70 per cent of the poor, who say the benefit of reforms have not trickled down to them, ask for more reforms and a greater role of private sector and foreign investment," Mr. Chidambaram said.

World Bank may have "too many bureaucrats"

WASHINGTON (AFP) — World Bank President James Wolfensohn has acknowledged that his institution may be too weighed down by bureaucrats but said it also had specialists dedicating their lives to development.

Asked at a press conference if the bank had too many people enjoying the comforts of Washington offices, Mr. Wolfensohn agreed the bank may have "too many bureaucrats."

"But we also have the best people... who are killing themselves on projects day

and night," he said. "The World Bank has not achieved what it has achieved by sitting in offices."

In a speech opening the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, Mr. Wolfensohn said the bank would make more of an effort "to get closer to its clients."

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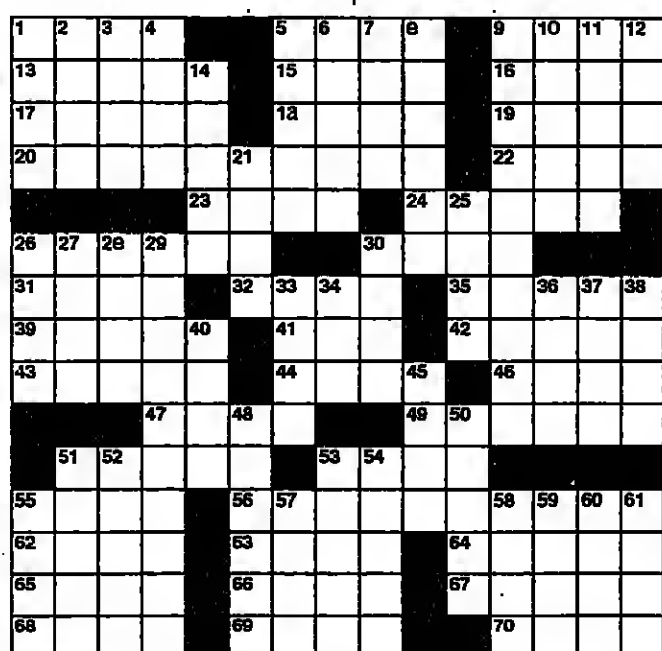
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THE Daily Crossword by James L. Beatty

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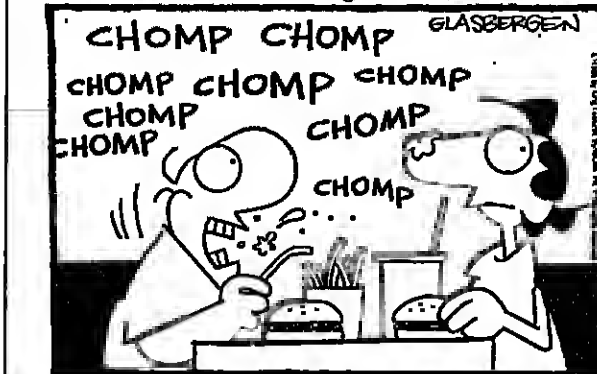


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7 Con
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9 Aristocrats
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51 Boxer Camera
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55 Quahog
57 — rickety
58 Nab
59 Uncomely
60 Kind of garden
61 Abstract being

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



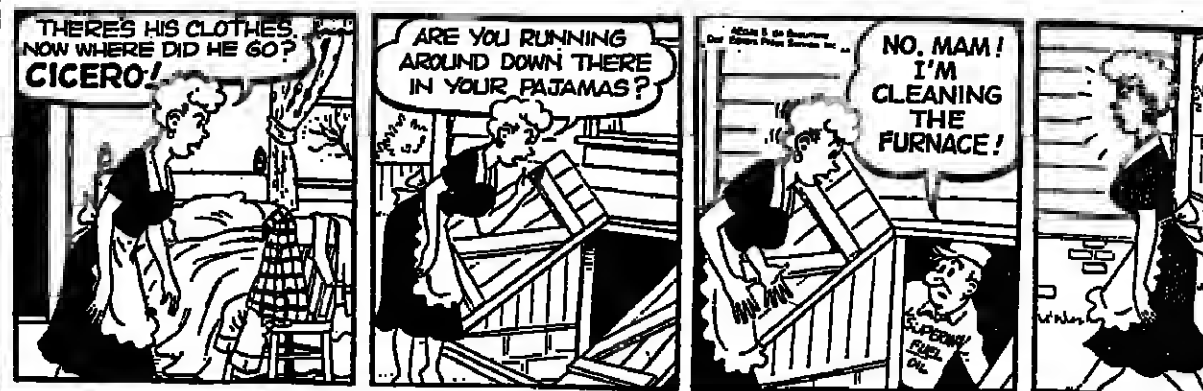
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get property affairs adjusted first today and plan how to improve the value of your possessions. Later this evening you can consult with knowledgeable people and devise a plan of action which can be successful.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Find a better way today of gaining what you want the most in personal life. You can get them easily later this evening by meeting with fellow associates and determining the best course of action to be taken at this time.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Confer with a good advisor today and get good results concerning your career activities. Show more interest in your mate's welfare later this evening and he or she will show appreciation in many special manners.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study whatever your friends and fellow associates will do today as part of a concerted plan of actions which will benefit everyone involved. Later this evening you can meet with close friends and plan your course of action.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Bring your talents to the attention of influential people today and thereby you can become quite successful in the days ahead. Get a credit affair nicely taken care of so that you can have peace of mind at this time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get into details today of any new projects you are working on. This is a good evening to assist those in need and thereby you will gain the respect and admiration of your community and others who are around you at this time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Morning would be fine today to handle monetary and property affairs since the aspects are good. Later this evening you can meet with those in authority and discuss the feasibility of a course of action you have devised.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be more practical in dealing with others today and be very tactful with a special someone so that you do not offend this individual. Later this evening will be good to meet with close friends and have fun out on the town.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think of the benefits you can get from career activities you do today and plan to increase them in such a fashion that you can gain recognition from those in authority who have the power to make your life quite successful.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have much ability at organization today, so get an early start on whatever you wish to handle and devise a course of action which is feasible. Later this evening you can meet with fellow associates and put it into action.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Handle intimate affairs most wisely at home today and make the situation better there. Later this evening will be good for concluding discussions concerning your career activities and be prepared to implement them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Communicate with good friends and newcomers today and get good results. Be charming with everyone later this evening and thereby you can suggest some course of action which will be quite beneficial to all.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline.

Middle East tourism industry feels the heat

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — The Middle East's tourism industry, which has reaped rewards from peace accords between Israel and Arab neighbours, is feeling the heat from fresh conflicts in the region.

Tourist officials say the election of Israel's hard-line Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in May slammed brakes not only on peace talks but also on the growth of regional tourism.

Israel's tourism ministry said last week that new reservations from overseas tourists had dried up as a result of

bloody clashes between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians which have killed 73 people.

It has been hard for the tourist industry, busily engaged in putting up new hotels in much of the region, to project a positive image this year.

A series of conflicts has served as a reminder that the Middle East is a volatile region.

Gunbattles between Israelis and Palestinians, suicide bombings in Israel back in February and March, Israeli raids on Lebanon in April and U.S. cruise missile attacks on Iraq in September have all helped to keep some tourists away. The Arab World gets

only two per cent of the world's annual \$370 billion tourism spending, says the Arab Hotels and Tourism Union, even though it boasts extraordinary attractions from Egypt's Pyramids to Jordan's rose-red city of Petra.

"Unfortunately, the foreign tourist sees the Middle East as one region," Jordanian Tourism Minister Saleh Alshaidat told Reuters. "Hence, decisions to postpone or cancel trips are taken without examining the state of each country on its own."

In Lebanon, where tourism has dropped 30 per cent this year, a leading spokesman for the industry echoed his

words. "Tourism throughout the region is affected," said Pierre Ashkar, president of the Lebanese Hoteliers' Association. "European and American tourists look at the region as a whole, not at individual countries. Even Cyprus and Turkey are affected by this problem. Stability is the most important basis for tourism."

The island of Cyprus, where tourism receipts represent 21 per cent of gross domestic product, has seen tourist arrivals drop four per cent this year, partly because of competition from cheaper purveyors of sun and sand.

Tourism is also a big earner in Israel, bringing in \$3.3 billion last year.

But this year has been an anxious one for the industry in Israel and the occupied West Bank. During the summer, doleful restaurant owners surveyed rows of empty tables even at prime sites such as Jerusalem's Mount of Olives.

The passenger loads of El Al, which flew 2.93 million passengers in 1995, fell sharply in the first nine months of the year.

"What we're experiencing today is a decrease of 12 to 18 per cent," said airline spokesman Nachman Klieman. The Israel Hotels Asso-

ciation said that in the summer overnight stays were down 14 to 22 per cent from a year earlier.

In Jordan, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994 and pinned great hopes on tourism, the story has been similar.

Jordan had hoped for an increase in tourist revenue — a main foreign currency earner after expatriate remittances and exports of potash and phosphates — to nearly \$1 billion from \$700 million in 1995.

But the government now doubts whether last year's record of 1.1 million visitors, attracted by spectacular sites like the Nabatean rock-carved city of Petra, will be sur-

passed this year.

"Frankly, the upcoming high season in winter is already hit," said Malek Haddad, manager at Jordan's JETT Company which ferries tourists on its fleet of 143 buses.

Jordan has suffered not just from the tensions in neighbouring Israel and Iraq but also from some homespun troubles.

Television pictures of bread riots in August in the southern city of Karak, better known for its Crusader Castle, did nothing to kindle interest in Jordan as a tourist destination.

Egypt, which has been receiving foreign visitors for many generations, has a substantial tourist

industry and stands to lose from the latest Arab-Israeli tensions.

Egyptian Tourism Minister Mamdouh Al Beltagi said in September that tourism earned the country just over \$3 billion in the fiscal year 1995/96 which ended in June. This was \$710 million more than in the previous year.

Tourist executives in Cairo do not expect this impressive growth to continue.

Saudi prince donates \$0.2m to Jordanian charities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud donated \$200,000 to eight Jordanian charity organisations. They are: Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, Jordan Sports Federation for Handicapped, Mabarrat Um Al Hussein Association, Young Muslim Women's Association, the Social Centre of the Soldier's Families Welfare Society, Institute for the Care of Cerebral Palsy and Queen Alia Foundation for Hearing and Speech.

Prince Al Waleed Ben Talal, who is a prominent investment and international business figure, has long been a supporter of the social, charitable, humanitarian and sports activities. An official source stated that Prince Al Waleed will be visiting Jordan during the period from Oct. 9 to 11, 1996 to discuss potential business prospects, in addition to his first investment in Jordan, which is the establishment of a Four Seasons Hotel.

Prince Al Waleed Ben Talal is well-known as one of the largest investors in Citicorp, Euro Disney, Canary Wharf in London, Sax Fifth Avenue Group in New York, the Plaza Hotel in New York, the Four Seasons and Fairmont Hotel Companies, Arab Radio and Television Company (ART), Nile Plaza Hotel in Cairo in addition to numerous investments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLE	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.5330	0.6394	1.2580	111.85	1.3546	1520.34	1.7167	5.1676
DE Mark	0.6523	1.0000	0.4188	0.8194	72.97	0.8833	901.42	1.1217	3.3835
GB Sterling	1.5640	1.5640	1.0000	1.9847	174.75	2.1186	2377.81	2.8866	8.1134
Swiss Franc	0.7862	121.96	0.5085	1.0000	89.03	1.0776	1208.50	1.3854	4.1270
JP Yen	0.0089	1.3694	0.5710	1.1219	1.0000	13.56	153.61	1.6539	5.1676
Can Dollar	0.7382	1.3203	0.4690	0.9176	1.21	1.0000	1114.12	1.2556	3.7934
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0077	0.4201	0.8826	1360.91	0.8604	1.0000	1.130	3.4099
FR Franc	0.5815	89.12	0.2716	0.7304	53.01	0.7875	883.62	1.0000	3.0157
FR Franc	0.1928	0.2955	0.1232	0.2409	21.54	0.2611	33.14	33.1400	1.0000

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz/s)	380	380.5
Silver (oz/s)	4.9	4.92
Platinum (oz/s)	384.5	385.5
CU (3 Months)	1908	1914
CU (6 Months)	1918	1924
Lead (3 Months)	789	774
NI (3 Months)	1760	1780

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)						
Period	1	3	6	9	1	Year
Currency	Month	Months	Months	Months	Year	Year
USD	5.28	5.48	5.58	5.65	5.78	
GBP	5.61	5.68	5.77	5.84	5.99	
JPY	0.31	0.40	0.35	0.40	0.45	
DEM	2.93	2.95	2.98	2.99	3.06	
FRF	3.00	3.09	3.18	3.25	3.31	
CHF	1.18	1.33	1.35	1.47	1.40	
ITL	8.12	7.93	7.75	7.56	7.46	

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	114.17	Spot
Sugar (c/lbs)	331	Spot
Wheat (c/lbs)	22.02	Spot
Soy (c/lbs)	22.02	Spot
Barley (c/lbs)	2.67	Spot
Rice (c/lbs)	465	Spot

JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	0.4063	0.4068
DE Mark	0.9629	0.9637
CH Franc	0.1363	0.137
JP Yen	0.032	0.0325
FR Franc	0.4111	0.4132
IT Lira	0.4651	0.4674

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN									
ORGANIZED MARKET STOCK PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 06/10/1996									
LAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF ORDERS	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
252,000	ARAB BANK	13.3	1.44	6	280	43680	242.50	242.50	-
1,290	MUHAMMAD CHY. BK.	70.9	0.00	24	1480	15358	1.08	1.08	-
2,700	JOH. CHRY. BK.	9.2	0.12	6	2300	6213	2.22	2.27	+0.05
6,250	JOH. CHRY. BK.	13.0	1.95	7	2162	10466	4.00	4.06	+0.06
1,210	JOH. CHRY. BK.	9.5	0.12	10	9500	9603	0.82	0.83	+0.01
1,000	JOH. CHRY. BK.	16.1	0.00	4	880	2178	1.20	1.25	+0.05
1,410	JOH. CHRY. BK.	7.2	0.12	1	750	113	2.05	2.05	-
1,090	JOH. CHRY. BK.	9	0.00	4	16893	4890	0.28	0.29	+0.01
1,840	JOH. CHRY. BK.	4	0.00	8	11650	16123	1.37	1.38	+0.01
INDEX: 197.41 ADX: +0.08									
2,710	JOH. CHRY. BK.	6.1	9.30	3	900	1928	2.15	2.15	-
2,500	JOH. CHRY. BK.	7.4	6.22	1	280	488	1.98	1.95	-0.03
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS: TRADING: 121.41 CLOSING: 0.00									
1,900	JOH. CHRY. BK.	11.1	7.80	2	200	490	1.60	1.60	-
7,050	JOH. CHRY. BK.	10.9	5.89	2	780	4787	6.15	6.15	-
2,090	JOH. CHRY. BK.	9	0.00	13	3900	4807	1.23	1.23	-
1,280	JOH. CHRY. BK.	31.8	0.00	2	500	310	0.43	0.43	-
2,420	JOH. CHRY. BK.	73.7	0.00	1	500	886	1.72	1.71	-0.01
7,860	JOH. CHRY. BK.	12.8	8.50	9	762	9678	3.45	3.46	+0.01
1,300	JOH. CHRY. BK.	9	0.00	4	940	1088	1.11	1.12	+0.01
2,430	JOH. CHRY. BK.	9.6	3.46	2	600	913	1.61	1.61	-
1,200	JOH. CHRY. BK.	8	0.00	1	800	455	0.92	0.93	+0.01
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS: INDEX: 112.46 ADX: +0.04									
26,620	JOH. CHRY. BK.	15.7	2.85	1	20	390	19.50	19.50	-
2,260	JOH. CHRY. BK.	9	0.00	2	10000	12000	1.10	1.10	-
1,770	JOH. CHRY. BK.	16.0	1.00	6	1510	8880	3.21	3.21	-
3,250	JOH. CHRY. BK.	9	0.00	1	10000	31500	3.15	3.15	-
5,960	JOH. CHRY. BK.	16.8	3.84	2	1300	7150	5.50	5.50	-
10,190	JOH. CHRY. BK.	0.4	8.11	12	1200	111658	9.28	9.29	+0.01
7,600	JOH. CHRY. BK.	7.7	5.00	8	1017	7517	7.20	7.20	-
3,780	JOH. CHRY. BK.	25.6	0.00	1	80	110	2.17	2.20	+0.03
1,870	JOH. CHRY. BK.	39.8	0.00	1	7610	28168	3.55	3.60	+0.05
6,480	JOH. CHRY. BK.	7.0	0.07	4	272	1682	6.10	6.25	+0.15
8,060	JOH. CHRY. BK.	13.0	4.21	22	1852	8802	4.75	4.75	-
1,500	JOH. CHRY. BK.	9	0.00	1	40000	45540	0.00	0.00	-
2,500	JOH. CHRY. BK.	8.6	8.35	5	3500	4274	1.20	1.24	+0.04
1,090	JOH. CHRY. BK.	9.8	9.23	1	200	130	0.64	0.65	+0.01
1,940	JOH. CHRY. BK.	9	0.00	2	320	3703	1.14	1.13	-0.01
1,150	JOH. CHRY. BK.	72.2	0.00	2	600	534	0.80	0.89	+0.09
2,350	JOH. CHRY. BK.	25.7	0.00	10	7600	5417	2.68	2.73	+0.05
3,280	JOH. CHRY. BK.	4.0	12.27	2	360	480	1.57	1.57	-
1,120	JOH. CHRY. BK.	17.8	0.00	30	12150	2836	1.63	1.63	-
1,640	JOH. CHRY. BK.	28.5	0.00	15	6750	17250	3.39	3.42	+0.03
2,460	JOH. CHRY. BK.	7.1	0.00	4	570	1056	1.90	1.94	+0.04
1,450	JOH. CHRY. BK.	0.00	0.00	3	750	062	1.85	1.84	-0.01
TRADING SECTOR TOTALS: INDEX: 111.24 ADX: +0.09									
GRAND TOTAL	INDEX: 147.73 ADX: +0.07			349	219608	454646			

Daily Business Bear

A review of news from the Arabic press

Income from tourism increases by 16 per cent

JORDAN'S INCOME from tourism has increased by 16 per cent as a total of JD255 million were earned during the first six months of this year compared to JD220 million earned during the first half of 1995, sources at the Ministry of Tourism have said. They indicated that income generated at archaeological sites during the first eight months of 1996 was JD5.18 million compared to JD4.20 million during the same period of 1995. The increase represented a 23 per cent rise. According to the sources, the number of tourists visiting Petra was 35 per cent higher as a total of 242,000 persons visited the red-rose city during the first eight months of this year compared to 216,000 visitors from January to August 1995.

During the first nine months of 1996, the number of tourists visiting Jordan increased by 4.8 per cent from 853,000 in 1995 to 894,000 from January until the end of last month. Tourists coming from the United States, Europe and other countries totalled 316,000 persons, 4.74 per cent higher than the 302,000 tourists who visited the Kingdom during the first nine months of last year. The highest rise was 9.4 per cent among arrivals from the United States while the increase from other countries was 9.5 per cent. Saudis accounted for about 80 per cent of arrivals from Arab Gulf states.

The number of tourists coming in groups reached 185,000 persons during the first seven months of this year, nine per cent over the 174,000 persons who arrived in the same period of 1995. The groups had an average stay of 2.3 nights in Amman, 1.8 nights in Aqaba, 1.5 nights in Petra and 2.0 nights in other areas.

The sources indicated that a total of 156 classified hotels and 146 unclassified hotels were operating in Jordan in 1996 and that the number of rooms in the first category has increased from 8,565 rooms in 1995 to 9,213 rooms in 1996. The unclassified hotels had a total of 1,679 rooms.

Supporting services also registered growth as the number of tourism offices rose from 371 in 1995 to 391 until the end of August 1996. Car rental offices increased from 154 in 1995 to 214 until the end of August 1996. The number of tourist guides expanded from 414 persons last year to 558 this year. Finally, the sources said, the occupancy on tourist buses during the first seven months of this year was only 38 per cent of the tourist groups (Al Ra'i).

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Helissio impressive at Longchamp

PARIS (AFP) — Favourite Helissio put up a champion's display at Longchamp Racecourse Sunday to land the Arc de Triomphe — though the race was marred by the fatal fall of Polaris Flight.

His performance had the crowd on their feet as he trounced the field, made up of the best middle distance horses in Europe.

Helissio, trained by Ellie Lellouche and owned by Spaniard Enrique Sarasola, was superbly ridden by champion French jockey Olivier Peslier who extended his lead in the final straight to beat 22/1 English challenger Pilsudski by five lengths, with Oscar Schindler, 17/1, from Ireland in third.

"I have never sat on a better horse. He settled so well, which I was worried about as he's a bit of a character, and we decided to set the pace as it was the best way of settling him," the 22-year-old Peslier said.

Tunisian born Lellouche, who trained Sarasola's Vert Amande to be third in the 1992 Arc, was just happy to have trained the winner for Sarasola.

"He's the best owner to have and I can't say that about some of the people I've trained for," said Lellouche.

"I said a few weeks ago it was only the beginning and I was damn well right, he's in a different class," added Sarasola, who turned down a \$6 million bid from Japan for Helissio a week ago.

Sarasola, 56 and who saved the family of former Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez during a coup in February 1981, added that he may well go for the Japan Cup in November.

Helissio, who disappointed in the French Derby when he was not allowed to make the pace, led virtually the whole way and although the 15 other runners shaped up to attack



French jockey Olivier Peslier raises his crop as his horse Helissio strides away to win the 1996 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe horse race in one of the most impressive performances in the history of the race (Reuters photo)

him as they entered the final short straight Peslier just gave him a tap and he sped away.

Peslier, capless, flung his whip hand in the air in celebration 20 yards from the post such was the ease of his victory.

Pilsudski, trained by Michael Stoute for Lord Weinstock, stayed on strongly under Walter Swinburn to be second beating off the challenge of Oscar Schindler, trained by Kevin Prendergast for

Oliver Lehan, who ran through the rest of the field under Cash Asmusen.

Oscar Schindler will probably go for November's Melbourne Cup for which he is down to 6/1 from 14/1.

"Oscar Schindler cost us the most money from the point of view of each way backers," David Hood of William Hill said.

Sadly, Peslier's joy was in stark contrast to that of Peter Chapple-Hyam, trained Polaris Missile,

who fell at the back of the field in the final straight, shattering his off fore leg and had to be destroyed.

His jockey John Reid was winded but went on to ride the winner in the next race.

Chapple-Hyam has a Longchamp jinx, three of his four winners here have been disqualified and now he has lost his French and Irish Derby runner-up.

"I don't know why I keep coming back here," said an upset Chapple-Hyam.

Upsets rule at Breeders' Cup preview

BELMONT, New York (R) — Diplomatic Jet posted a mild upset Saturday in the 1-1/2-mile Turf Classic invitational at Belmont Park, the final preparation for many horses pointing to the October 26 Breeders' Cup in Toronto.

Breeders' Cup Classic champion Cigar also lost by a short head to catch skip away in the Jockey Cup gold cup.

Diplomatic Jet, the 5-1 fourth choice, held off the fast-closing favourite Awad by 3/4 of a length. It was another 3 3/4 lengths back to Martin, who finished 1/2 length ahead of Ops Smile.

Third choice Posidonas, winner of the Princess of Wales Stakes in July at Newmarket, was eased to last after laying close to the pace early under a stranglehold from jockey Jose Santos.

Fourth choice Definite Article, winner of the Tattersalls Gold Cup at the Curragh in Ireland in May, tired to finish sixth after being well-placed throughout. Bad Bertricht Again and Montjoy, each making

their second North American starts after European campaigns, finished seventh and eighth.

Diplomatic Jet tracked the early pace set by Turk Passer, took over the lead on the final turn and had enough left for the drive to win in 2:27 2-5 over the firm turf course.

Earlier on the card Same Old Wish turned in a stunning upset to win the Kelso handicap at odds of 34-1 and join the contenders for the Breeders' Cup Mile. Same Old Wish, a 6-year-old gelded son of the French star Lypbard's Wish, was blocked along the inside in deep stretch and checked sharply by jockey Shane Sellers but continued to close stoutly between horses and nailed favourite Da Hoss at the wire. Same Old Wish covered the mile in 1:34 2-5.

Irish-bred Volochine, a stakes winner in France earlier this year, ran on well for third on the outside, the deepest part of the course, and will probably ship to Toronto to run in the Breeders' Cup Mile.

"I thought going in that Da Hoss was the best miler of the

Americans," said trainer Niall O'Callaghan, "and we were right there with him. I think we are going on to the Breeders' Cup. He loves soft turf, it really moves him up, and you anticipate soft turf later in the year."

The Breeders' Cup Classic may attract more attention from European interests after Cigar's loss as the 1-5 favourite. Cigar and jockey Jerry Bailey had dead aim on Skip Away and third-finisher Louis Quatorze at the head of the stretch but could not quicken enough through the lane. The final time for the 1-1/4 miles was 2:00 3-5.

"I was all out from the eighth pole home but I just couldn't get to him," said Cigar's jockey, Jerry Bailey. "I just met a horse I couldn't beat today."

The Champagne Stakes for 2-year-old colts also yielded an upset when 7-1 Ordway ran down favoured Traitor through the stretch to win the 1-1/16th mile event in 1:42.

Khan ousts Cairns to progress in Qatar

DOHA (AFP) — World champion Jansher Khan moved easily into the second round of the Qatar International Squash Championship Saturday with a straight sets win over England's world number 11 Mark Cairns.

Jansher, who is attempting to win his fifth straight title, won 15-9, 17-14, 15-7 in 54 minutes, despite making numerous errors resulting from an apparent lack of concentration at times.

"I'm not happy with it," said Jansher. "I've been travelling and my preparation was poor."

Cairns kept in touch in the first game and was up 11-7 and 13-7 in the second against a patchy Jansher before the champion upped the pace, as he so often does at crucial stages, to win the tiebreak 17-14.

In the third, Jansher, who had started the match concentrating on his defensive drives, attempted more attacking shots.

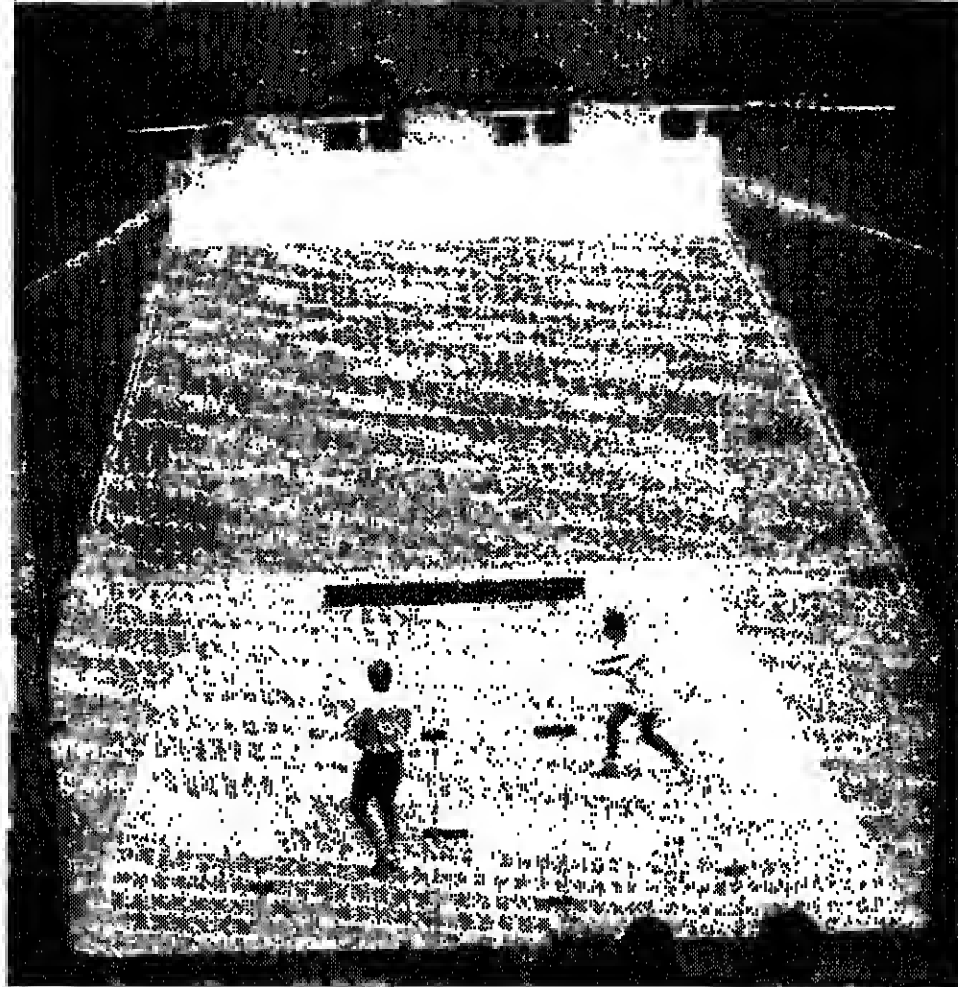
"He is tired," said his coach of 12 years Mehboud Khan.

After winning the Gezira Tournament in Egypt, Jansher played the PIA Open in Karachi and flew home to Peshawar.

He was then involved in a series of long road journeys to Islamabad, Lahore and back to Peshawar for a family wedding and so is not currently at his freshest.

In the Gezira Tournament, where Jansher reasserted himself after his rare loss in Hong Kong to world number two Rodney Eyles of Australia, he had trouble with Baroda, winning 15-14 in the fourth game.

But Jansher sees the Egyptian as less of a threat away from his own country's volatile crowds.



Squash players fight it out at Al Hassan Squash Centre on the opening day of the World Airlines Squash Tournament

Emirates beat Swissair on 2nd day of World Airline Squash Tournament

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Competition heated up Sunday as the 11th World Airline Squash Tournament entered its second day with a convincing 6-1 win for Qantas Airlines over Ansett Australia while Cathay Pacific beat Air New Zealand 5-2.

Emirates defeated Swissair 3-2 and New Guinea beat Lufthansa 4-3.

The six-day tournament, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, opened Saturday at Al Hussein Sports City with 17 international airline companies taking part.

The hosting of the competition in Amman follows last year's title win for the Royal Jordanian (RJ) squash team in the 10th tournament in Dubai after a convincing 5-2 win over British Airways.

The competition, organised by the RJ Squash Club brings together teams from the following airlines: Ansett New Zealand,

Ansett Australia, Lufthansa, Emirates, New Guinea, Cathay Pacific, Hunting Cargo Dublin, British Airways, Qantas, Air New Zealand, Syrian Arab Air, Egypt Air, Gulf Air, Sabena, Singapore Airlines, Swissair and Royal Jordanian.

Royal Jordanian has two teams participating.

Team A includes: Captain Jawdat Abdul Munem, Yazan Addas, Wael Tabalat, Mohammad Saeed, Qutaibah Hawamdeh, Yazan Abdul Raouf, Hamed Saeed, Samia Hunidi, Arwa Saeed and Rima Jawdat.

Team B includes: Mazen Matar, Khaled Saeed, Zakaria Rifai, Imad Sharadeh, Hussein Shobaki, Abed Qader Raideh, Safwan Sharifi, Suha Bitar, Abeer Akasbeh and Mai Bat.

Monday's schedule
Emirates - Australia
New Guinea Lufthansa
Hong Kong Air New Zealand
Ansett Australia International Group
All matches start at 9 a.m.

Kafelnikov wins Lyon tournament

LYON (AFP) — Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov won the Lyon ATP Tournament Sunday at the expense of France's Arnaud Boetsch 7-5, 6-3 to continue success in France.

World No. 5 Kafelnikov's 75 minute victory added another victory to his Grand Slam win at Roland Garros just four months ago, but he had to struggle for the title.

Boetsch, ranked 23rd in the world and recently involved in France's Davis Cup semifinal triumph over Italy, led 5-4 with service to come in the first set as Kafelnikov was put under intense pressure.

But the Russian went on to win five straight games to win the set 7-5 and lead 2-0 in the second to stamp his authority on the contest.

It was Kafelnikov's fourth tour victory this year — he also won tournaments at Adelaide and Prague.

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NORTH		EAST	
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♥ KJ3	♥ 104	♥ 9852	♥ J432
♦ A Q J 7	♦ 855	♦ 103	♦ 9852
♣ 1052	♣ 855	♣ 103	♣ 9852
♠ A K 10	♠ A 7	♠ A Q 8 7 6 2	♠ 93
	♠ A 9 7	♠ 93	♠ A 9 7

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♣ Pass 1C Pass
4C Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
When a defender has entered the auction, it often helps declarer in placing the cards exactly. On occasion, silence can be just as revealing, as Sherrinck Holmes demonstrated in the case of the dog that did not bark in the night.
With a trump suit that was full of holes and a hand that had nothing in reserve, South was a bit short of a jump to game on the second round. The invitational jump to three hearts deceived the South holding nicely, and North decided that the trump fillers merited

acceptance.
West led the king of clubs, and East played a discouraging deuce. West promptly shifted to the queen of spades. To the uninitiated it might seem that the fate of the contract hinged on a successful finesse for the king of diamonds, but South knew that card had to be with East.

West, who had remained silent throughout the auction, had already shown up with the ace-king of clubs and queen-jack of spades. Since West had to be relatively short in hearts, that player would surely have overcalled or made a takeout double, especially at this vulnerability, with the king of diamonds as well. If the contract were going to succeed, East had to be kept off lead to prevent a fatal return through the queen of clubs.

South's solution was most elegant. At trick two, West's queen of spades was allowed to hold the trick! The episode continuation was taken with the ace, two rounds of trumps were drawn ending in dummy, and a diamond was discarded on the king of spades.
After cashing the ace of diamonds, the queen was led for a ruffing finesse. East covered refusing to do so would have made no difference, declarer ruffed, then crossed back to the table with the king of trumps to take a club discard on the jack of diamonds. Declarer lost only two clubs and a spade.

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Italy made to struggle against Moldova

KISHINEV (AFP) — Italy opened their 1998 World Cup campaign with a laborious 3-1 victory over Moldova here on Saturday night, needing two late goals to save them from a humiliating draw.

Fabrizio Ravanelli, who has cast a spell on English football since arriving at Middlesbrough from Juventus, scored twice and Pierluigi Casiraghi bagged one in an otherwise uninspiring performance.

Four months after Italy were dumped out of the first round of the European Championships, there was little for coach Arrigo Sacchi to celebrate, despite his side making a promising start.

Ravanelli swivelled and shot from outside the box after five minutes and Moldova hit back with Sergey Celescu firing wide from a narrow angle just five yards from Francesco Toldo's goal.

But Italy were soon in front, a blunder in the Moldovan defence ending up with Casiraghi being shoved to the floor just outside the area.

Enrico Chiesa ran over the free-kick and Ravanelli struck a curling left-foot drive into the top left hand corner which left goalkeeper Denis Romanescu no chance.

However, the unthinkable happened just three minutes later.

Alexandru Curianu collected a long ball into the box and despite being surrounded by Italian defenders, got the better of his marker Ciro Ferrara and swept the ball into the right hand corner.

Bad went to worse and Toldo was booked minutes later for collecting the ball just outside his area, although the free kick was fired straight into his hands.

Italy struggled to get into gear up front and were unconvincing at the back. Vladimir Gaidamasiuc could even have made it 2-1 soon after the half-hour, bursting through the Italian defence but firing the ball wide of Toldo's near post.

Chiesa, tightly marked, did well to connect with Antonio Conte's chip five minutes before the break, but the ball slammed into Romanescu's chest.

Casiraghi had a far better chance four minutes later, the ball arriving at his feet after a goalmouth melee but Romanescu was still able to push the Lazio striker's shot from five yards round the post.



Northern Ireland's Neil Lennon (right) battles for possession of the ball with Armenia's Karapet Mikayelyan during their World Cup qualifying match at Windsor Park. The match ended in a 1-1 draw (Reuters photo)

European World Cup qualifier groups
PARIS (AFP) — European World Cup qualifier groups affected by Saturday's matches:

Group 2	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS.
England	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Italy	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moldova	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

Group 4	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS.
Sweden	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
Scotland	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Estonia	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Belarus	3	1	0	2	2	6	3
Austria	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Latvia	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Group 7	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS.
Wales	3	2	0	1	12	3	6
Holland	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Belgium	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Turkey	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
San Marino	0	0	2	0	11	0	0

Group 8	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS.
Macedonia	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Ireland	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Romania	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Lithuania	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Iceland	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Liechtenstein	2	0	0	2	0	8	0

Group 9	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS.
Ukraine	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Armenia	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
N. Ireland	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Portugal	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Albania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sacchi reshuffled his pack at half-time, abandoning his novel three-man attack for a more orthodox 4-2-2 formation — Chiesa being replaced by Juventus midfielder Angelo Di Livio.

The switch may have given Italy more muscle in midfield, but with Moldova

putting more men behind

the ball and then ready to swarm forward on the counter, it failed to deliver any quick results.

Although Italy enjoyed more possession, the breakthrough did not come until the 68th minute when the Moldovan defence failed to intercept a looping cross from Di Livio and Casiraghi rose to nod home from two yards.

Desperate to improve his team's performance, Sacchi threw on Gianfranco Zola for Carboni on the left, and the Parma striker was soon causing trouble in his play-making role behind the strikers.

Ravanelli had the ball in the back of the net again when he headed in Conte's cross, but the ball was ruled to have behind the byeline when the Juventus skipper pulled it back.

But there was no mistake in the 86th when Ravanelli thundered a penalty against the underside of the crossbar and in, after Casiraghi had been hauled to the floor by his shirt.

If it made the scoreline respectable, the strike from England's Silver Fox failed to erase doubts over Italy's form since the debacle of Euro 96.

The match had started with a minute's silence for Italian football legend Silvio Piola, who died Thursday night at the age of 83.

Braves lead the way

ATLANTA (AFP) — The world series champion Atlanta Braves led the parade into Major League baseball's league championship series Saturday as all four first-round playoff series were decided.

Strong pitching and the long ball were the key to the Braves' sweep. They hit five homers in the three games and held the Dodgers to five runs.

Atlanta won game three 5-2 and host game one of the best-of-seven National League championship series on Wednesday against St. Louis.

The Cardinals completed a three-game sweep of the Padres in San Diego with a 7-5 victory. Brian Jordan's two-run homer in the ninth made the difference.

In the American League, the New York Yankees beat the Texas Rangers 6-4 in Arlington to win their series 3-1.

They will host the ALCS opener on Tuesday against Baltimore, who beat defending AL champions Cleveland 4-3 in 12 innings for a 3-1 series win.

The Braves reached their fifth straight NLCS championship series.

The Braves battered Los Angeles starter Hideo Nomo for five runs, five hits and five walks in 3 2/3 innings.

In Cleveland the Orioles also got a game-winning home run, from none other than Roberto Alomar, whose very presence in the series angered umpires so much they planned to go on strike until a judge ordered them to work.

Alomar was suspended for five games after spitting on umpire John Hirschbeck at the end of the regular season. But the punishment won't take effect until next year, a fact that outraged the umpires.

Alomar blasted closer Jose Mesa's 1-1 pitch over the right-centre field fence in the top of the 12th.

In Arlington Bernie Williams homered from both sides of the plate as New York erased a 4-0 deficit to post their third straight come-from-behind win after losing the opener.

Williams, who homered and drove in the tying run in game three on Friday, tied the game at 4-4 in the fifth with a one-out homer to right field off Roger Pavlik.

Stark upsets Chang in Singapore Open final

SINGAPORE (AFP) — American qualifier Jonathan Stark upset world number two Michael Chang to win the men's singles crown at the \$414,500 Heineken Open here Sunday.

The 25-year-old Stark, ranked 101st on the ATP tour, won 6-4, 6-4 in 72 minutes at the Singapore indoor stadium and prevented the top-seeded Chinese-American from winning his 11th title in Asia and 27th overall.

It was Stark's second career singles title, the first was in 1993, and he pocketed \$55,000 for the victory in front of a 7,500-strong crowd rooting all the way for his opponent.

It was also his second win

in seven matches against the U.S. Open finalist.

"It's been a long time, too long. It feels good to have played so well and won my second title," Stark said. "I've played Michael a lot ... and although I beat him only once before we've always had close matches."

"I had a lot of confidence. I did what I had to do, put pressure on him as much as possible. I was really pressuring him on his serve. If he didn't make the net as soon as possible."

"Although I didn't think too many of them wanted me to win, it was a really courageous crowd," he said of the fans who had rooted for Chang all week only to go home disappointed after

the final.

Stark, who served and volleyed brilliantly on a fast carpet that suited his style, played more matches in the tournament than anyone else, advancing from the qualifying rounds to the final.

The 24-year-old Chang, who had not dropped a set before the final, began the match in commanding style, with four aces in the opening game.

The match stayed on serve until the ninth game when a Chang double-fault put Stark 5-4 up and he held serve for the set.

The break came quicker in the second set, when Stark took a 2-1 lead, and the rest of the set went with serve.



Iva Majoli

Huber retains Leipzig title

LEIPZIG (AFP) — Germany's Anke Huber won the \$450,000 WTA Tournament here on Sunday to retain her title, beating Croatia's Iva Majoli 5-7, 6-3, 6-1.

Fourth-seeded Huber, who reached the final when world No. 1 Steffi Graf withdrew from her semifinal with a knee injury, battled back superbly against her third-seeded opponent after losing the first set.

Urged on by a partisan 5,500 crowd, the German pulled the match out of the fire to wrap up her second tournament win of the season and now heads straight for another tournament on home ground at Filderstadt which opens Monday.

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Taleban edge forward against Masood hideout

GOLBAHAR (R) — Taleban forces bombarded the outposts of ousted Afghan military chief Ahmad Shah Masood on Sunday after consolidating newly taken peaks at the entrance to his valley stronghold.

The Taleban, battling for control of one of the last boldouts to its lightning takeover of this war-ravaged country, said they were confident of victory but declined to predict when it would happen.

"I cannot tell how long it will take but, Enshallah, it will happen," said one commander, monitoring by sight and walking-talkie the movement of his men up rocky hillsides newly taken by his forces.

The Taleban shelled Masood positions sporadically throughout the morning, but showed no sign of launching a second major assault after overrunning the two hills in Saturday's fighting.

Resisting, Masood forces launched rockets against new taleban positions overlooking the gorge that forms the gateway into Mr. Masood's stronghold.

The Taleban is a purist Islamic movement which has in two years emerged from obscurity to capture three quarters of the country.

Some people in Kabul have welcomed its victory as an end to years of international warfare but some have been critical of its strict brand of Islam which limits the role of women and forces men to pray five times a day.

Only Mr. Masood, the chief defender of Kabul until Burhanuddin Rabbani was ousted as president on Sept. 27, and warlord General Abdul Rashid

Dostum control areas outside the Taleban's grip in the north of the country.

Since his retreat to the Panjsher, which he successfully defended against Soviet forces in the 1980s, Mr. Masood has worked intensively to defend the snaking gorge, moving in supplies and triggering landslides across the valley floor.

Taleban commanders said they were moving their soldiers into position and were awaiting orders. One said that bulldozers had been shipped up to the frontline to clear mines and landslides triggered by Masood fighters ahead of their retreat.

While military analysts say the Taleban would face a tough battle to oust Mr. Masood, who withstood years of onslaught by Soviet forces in the 1980s, commanders of the purist Islamic army said they were confident of victory.

"These two hills are the most important hills," one said, pointing to the 2,500-metre peak, and a smaller hill, part of a range towering over the town of Golbahar.

The commander, who declined to be identified, said the mountain gave views of the first settlement inside the valley, some 20 minutes by vehicle from the gorge.

He said many of the 500 men under his command had moved into positions on hills overlooking the valley.

"For 12 years it was controlled by Masood under the Soviet (administration) so this is the first time it has been taken from him," another, artillery commander Hajibullah, said in the shade of an old armoured car.

Student jailed for eight months for lese majeste

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The State Security Court on Sunday sentenced a 24-year-old student, a critic of the Kingdom's peace treaty with Israel, to eight months in prison after it found him guilty of slandering His Majesty the King.

Ayman Etoum, a fifth-year civil engineering student at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), was arrested by security forces on Sept. 12, in connection with statements he made in a poetry recital at Ajloun Castle a month earlier.

The prosecution said that the defendant had slandered the King in his poetry recital, which was attended by 100 people.

Defence lawyer Zuhair Abu Ragheb told the Jordan Times he would appeal the verdict.

The military tribunal, headed by Judge Yousef Fauri and including Na'el Massadeh and Ahmad Ayash, first sentenced Mr. Etoum to a one-year prison term but decided to reduce the sentence to eight months because "he is a student and he must have a second chance."

"The poem lines had nothing slanderous to His Majesty the King and did not even relate to the King," Mr. Abu Ragheb said of the charge.

"There is an increase in passing such (lese majeste) convictions after democracy started to decline since 1992," Mr. Abu Ragheb, a member at the Islamic Action Front (IAF), said.

He added that there were no similar laws in democratic countries.

"Our law is derived from the Egyptian law and the Ottoman rule," he asserted.

He charged that Article 195 of the penal code relating to slander of the King has been used at a large scale by security forces "mainly against opposition groups and specifically against individuals with Islamic affiliation."

"This law should be implemented properly in the events when individuals directly slander the King," Mr. Abu Ragheb maintained.

Ali Etoum, father of the defendant, told the Jordan Times that his son had an Islamic affiliation and was an active member of the student union at the university.

He said that his son's poems were mostly political and directed against the peace treaty and normalisation of relations with Israel.

"Two years ago my son was expelled from the university for two semesters for his political views, mainly opposing normalisation," Mr. Etoum said.

Meanwhile, the Lower House of Parliament Freedoms Committee said Sunday that it forwarded a list of 54 people, including 12 convicted with lese majeste charges, to the government for an amnesty.

The list includes the president of the Engineers Association, Leith Shbeilat, and Ana Abu Rishieh, a spokesman for the Islamic Liberation Party. Both were sentenced to three years imprisonment on lese majeste.

The State Security Court is expected today to sentence 13 men, some of them accused of subversion in the Kingdom. The court has been reviewing the case since Sept. 10.

Seven of the 13 defendants, said to be members of a group called Bay'at Al Imam (pledge of allegiance to the leader), are charged with plotting to carry out extremist attacks, illegally possessing and manufacturing explosive materials. Four of the seven are also accused of slandering the King.

The remaining six, released on bail, also face charges of slandering King Hussein.



Investigators at the scene of Saturday night's blast at French Prime Minister Alain Juppe's mayoral office in the city of Bordeaux (Reuters photo)

Juppe 'will not be intimidated' by blast at his mayoral office

BORDEAUX, France (Agencies) — A grim-faced Prime Minister Alain Juppe, touring his bombed mayoral offices in the French city of Bordeaux on Sunday, denounced the "terrorist act" and said he would not be intimidated.

Hours after a powerful device damaged the elegant city hall, the centre-right premier flew back from Paris but refused to speculate on the culprits.

Investigators have said Corsican separatists might be responsible.

Mr. Juppe had left city hall to fly to the capital some four hours before the blast late on Saturday. He returned in a four-car motorcade and went straight to the site of the explosion at the back of the building.

The device blew up at 11:41 p.m. (21:41 GMT), causing significant damage but no casualties, outside the reception hall where Mr. Juppe had met local officials on Saturday morning and where a Franco-British summit was due to take place on Nov. 7-8.

The blast damaged the main reception hall and surrounding rooms on the ground floor and broke windows on all three levels of the city hall, regional official Bernard Landouzy said early Sunday morning.

No injuries were immediately reported, officials said. The damaged rooms had been closed to the public since 7 p.m. (19:00 GMT).

Prosecutor Patrice Davost confirmed the explosion was caused by a bomb. He said there were no claims of responsibility nor warnings before the blast.

"An explosive charge of rather strong power, placed outside the building, exploded at 11:41 p.m. (21:41 GMT)," Mr. Davost said.

The bomb appeared to have been planted on steps leading from the reception room to an adjoining garden, officials said.

The blast was heard throughout the surrounding neighbourhoods, witnesses said.

A heavy police cordon was established around the city hall.

"The fact that many elected officials of the (ruling centre-right) coalition and of the opposition are here with me this morning shows their feelings of revolt and indignation, and their unity in the face of this terrorist act," Mr. Juppe said.

"I am not the kind of man who lets himself be intimidated. The rule of law will prevail," he told reporters, adding that he would meet interior and justice ministers on Monday to discuss what measures should be taken.

Mr. Juppe toured the outside of the building and the ornate ball room paintings, furniture, wood panelling and ceiling were damaged by the blast. Some paintings were dashed to the ground, windows leading out on the garden were blown out, and

the explosion also damaged Mr. Juppe's own office.

Mr. Juppe then flew back to Paris.

Prosecutor Davost said investigators had no idea so far of the make-up of the explosive and added no threats had been received beforehand. Nor had anyone claimed responsibility.

"We don't know how it was detonated. We will need two or three days to find out. If it had been a gas canister we would know," he said. "It appears that it wasn't the (Spanish Basque separatist group) ETA (Basque homeland and freedom)." Mr. Davost added.

Separatist guerrillas waging a long bombing campaign on the French Mediterranean island of Corsica had recently threatened to carry out attacks on the mainland.

The clandestine Corsican National Liberation Front — Historical Wing (FLNC) last week claimed responsibility for a bomb attack outside the lawcourts in Aix-en-Provence in southern France, the first such attack on the mainland in several years.

Mr. Juppe has decreed a crackdown on separatist violence, but nationalist leaders have in turn accused him of burying secret talks aimed at resolving their differences.

A wave of bombings, chiefly in Paris, hit France last year. The attacks were blamed on militants angered by France's support for Algerian authorities.

Iraq sees window of opportunity to seek end to isolation in Arab World

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq is trying to capitalise on international unease over last month's U.S. missile strikes and a further delay to its long-awaited oil-for-food deal to try to rebuild bridges to Arab states and end its six-year isolation.

But diplomats say Baghdad still faces a major task to repair damage to Arab ties from its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which led to crippling trade sanctions and political exile.

Iraq's latest showdown with the U.S., prompted by its military support for the rebel faction of Kurdish strongman Massoud Barzani, left Washington heading an increasingly fragile anti-Baghdad coalition.

Arab states including Syria, with deep historical mistrust of Baghdad, condemned the Cruise missile strikes on Iraq, Saudi Arabia, which hosted the U.S.-led coalition which ousted Iraqi troops from Kuwait in 1991, distanced itself from the attacks.

Diplomats say culture and Information Minister Abdul Ghani Abdul Gbafur sent letters to thank Iraq's two Gulf war foes.

The messages from Baghdad, still effectively isolated in the 22-member Arab League, were part of increasing efforts to break out of its six-year seclusion, they said.

"This is a top priority of Iraqi foreign policy, since it

all started with an attack on an Arab country," one diplomat said. "They need to get rid of this stigma."

The last week has offered rare glimpses of hope.

Last Wednesday an Iraqi diplomat attended the opening of Bahrain's Shura council, the first official appearance of a Baghdad envoy in the Gulf state for six years, sources said.

On Friday the official Al Iraq newspaper led its front page with a report that another Gulf Arab country, Qatar, had called at the United Nations in New York for speedy implementation of Iraq's \$2 billion oil-for-food deal.

The deal, signed in May but delayed by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali after the unrest in the north, allows Iraq to buy urgently needed food and medicine. Baghdad sees it as a significant step to the complete lifting of the sanctions.

Last Monday Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahaf said he saw consensus at the U.N. for the deal to be carried out soon and said most countries opposed its "hijacking" by Washington.

In an initiative aimed at mobilising perceived Arab sympathy for Iraq, Mr. Sahaf also called on Wednesday for Egypt to join the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with scrapping his country's past weapons programmes.

Ridding Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction

is key to sanctions being lifted. Iraq says UNSCOM is dragging its heels and is influenced by British and U.S. intelligence.

"My country calls for the permanent members of the (U.N.) Security Council and Egypt, as the Arab representative in the council and the biggest Middle East country working for a region free of weapons of mass destruction, to participate in the work of the special commission," Mr. Sahaf said in a copy of his speech made available in Baghdad.

"They should participate in a direct form in evaluating the results of its work and in its final conclusion," Mr. Sahaf said.

Reconciliation remains elusive — Iraq was not invited to an Arab summit in June to discuss stalled Middle East peace talks — but Baghdad's efforts look set to continue.

Diplomats say Iraqi and Syrian officials may have met in July to discuss ties. The two neighbours, at odds over decades of political rivalry, have been drawn together by the joint threat to their precious water supplies from Turkish dams.

"There has been a lot of speculation that deterioration in the Middle East peace process could lead to Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement," said an European diplomat.

"That would be a real headache for the West."

Renegotiating accords dangerous — Mubarak

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said on Sunday Israel's insistence on renegotiating issues it had agreed upon with Palestinians was dangerous and could throw the region into catastrophe.

But the Egyptian leader, whose country became the first Arab Nation to sign a peace deal with Israel in 1979, said in a television interview just hours before Palestinians and Israelis were to resume peace talks in the Gaza Strip that he hoped the two sides could find a way to implement their peace agreements.

"There are agreements that were signed with the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. (Current) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came along and does not want to implement them. He says he wants to implement them and that he is committed but until now there is nothing," Mr. Mubarak said.

"He says let's start negotiations. But negotiations on what? I know that the talks that should start are those on the final status of the issue but redeployment from Hebron has already been talked about and finished in difficult negotiations and they reached agreement and even the means to implement them."

"The principle of renegotiation is a dangerous one. These are agreements that are internationally recognised that were signed here in Egypt and in the United States. One must respect them or there will be a catastrophe," Mr. Mubarak added.

Mr. Mubarak boycotted last week's Arab-Israeli summit in Washington because of what he called Israel's intransigence and its poor treatment of Palestinians.

Mr. Mubarak said the Washington talks could have achieved more if Mr. Netanyahu had been more flexible.

"If he (Netanyahu) had more political flexibility they would have been able to achieve more than they did in Washington," he said.

An Egyptian militant group that assassinated President Anwar Sadat during a military parade 15 years ago, urged the armed forces on Sunday to overthrow the "apostate regime" of President Hosni Mubarak.

Vanguards of Conquest, a revival of the Jihad (holy struggle) group that killed Sadat, slammed the Cairo government for being "an agent that rules Egypt for the sake of the Americans and the Jews."

The group made the comments in a statement faxed to an international news agency on the anniversary of Egypt's war with Israel in 1973, which Egyptians say ended with a victory for their country.

"Oct. 6, 1973, was a victory over the sons of monkeys and pigs. Oct. 6, 1981, was the day of assassination of the pharaoh of Egypt, the damned Sadat," the group said.

"The agent Sadat sold at a cheap price your victories of October, 1973, by signing the treaty of surrender that he was dragged into and which is now being implemented by his successor the agent Mubarak," the group added.

Erbakan defends Libya against West's charges

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan on a controversial visit to Libya, on Sunday dismissed U.S. allegations that Tripoli sponsored terrorism as Western "propaganda" and proposed to triple trade with the sanctions-hit country.

"This is propaganda. We know that Libya is against terrorist activities. Libya is the country suffering most from terror," Mr. Erbakan was quoted as saying by Turkey's state-run Anatolian news agency.

Earlier, Mr. Erbakan had been shown around a house belonging to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi in Tripoli that was hit during airstrikes by U.S. fighter bombers in 1986.

"We saw there an example, like a monument, showing the suffering which Libya has experienced," Mr. Erbakan told a news conference ahead of talks with Colonel Qadhafi in the Libyan coastal city of Sirte, some 450 kilometres east of Tripoli.

The comments by Mr. Erbakan, who on Sunday completed his first hundred days in office, have aggravated suspicions that he seeks to subvert modern Turkey's long-standing Western ties and strengthen links with Muslim countries.

He said Turkey plans to triple trade with Libya to \$2 billion from \$623 million in 1995 if Libya pays its debts of more than \$300 million due to Turkish contractors. There was no immediate comment on the repayments by Libyan officials.

Mr. Erbakan has said Libya could sell Turkey oil, natural gas, petrochemicals and fertiliser and buy food, textiles and industrial products.

Libya has suffered economically in recent years from sanctions imposed by the United Nations over its refusal to hand over two Libyans suspected of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over Scotland in 1988.

A ban on flights to and from Libya meant Mr. Erbakan had to fly from Cairo to the Tunisian island of Jerba and then travel on by road for the visit.

Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, Mr. Erbakan's conservative coalition part-

ner, has described the visit as ill-timed while the interior minister, a member of Mrs. Ciller's party, has threatened to resign over the trip.

Mrs. Ciller herself visited Libya and met Col. Qadhafi in 1994, when she was prime minister.

Washington, already wary of modern Turkey's first Islamist leader — who made a state visit to Iran over the summer after taking office — has expressed disquiet at the Libya visit.

The United States accuses both Libya and Iran of sponsoring state terrorism and has rebuked its NATO ally for forging closer ties with the two countries. Few foreign leaders have visited Tripoli since the U.N. embargo was imposed.

Mr. Erbakan said Turkey, like Libya, suffered from terrorism and accused the West of undermining Ankara's fight against Kurdish guerrillas through its attacks on Turkey's human rights record.

"The West wants to divide Turkey," Mr. Erbakan was quoted as saying by Anatolian. "The expression it uses for this is human rights. However, Turkey is more advanced than the West as far as human rights is concerned."

Amnesty International this week accused Turkey's powerful security forces of committing human rights abuses knowing that the civilian authorities would rarely challenge them.

The Turkish military has waged a bitter 12-year battle with the separatist Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), fighting for autonomy or independence in the southeast of the country.

The European Parliament last month threatened to withhold hundreds of millions of dollars in European Union aid to Turkey, complaining that Ankara has not carried out promises to clean up its rights record.

Mr. Erbakan is due to travel later on Sunday from Libya to Nigeria, also rich in natural resources but under fire from the West over the human rights record of its military government.

Clinton unveils statue of Eleanor Roosevelt

Mrs. Clinton unveils statue of Eleanor Roosevelt

NEW YORK (R) — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, an admirer of Eleanor Roosevelt, unveiled an eight-foot (2.4 metres) bronze and stone statue of the former first lady Saturday and joked about her famous imaginary conversations with Roosevelt at the White House.

"When I last spoke with Mrs. Roosevelt, she wanted me to tell all of you how pleased she is by this great, great new statue," Mrs. Clinton said at the dedication of the statue at New York City's Riverside Park as 1,000 guests, including 35 members of the Roosevelt family, looked on. Washington was tilted in June when excerpts from The Choice, a new book by Watergate reporter Bob Woodward, revealed that Mrs. Clinton held imaginary conversations with Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Mrs. Clinton has often drawn parallels between her own life and that of the wife of President Roosevelt, who was a strong but controversial figure in her days in the White House from 1933 to 1945. Mrs. Roosevelt died in 1962. In her June 4 weekly syndicated column, Mrs. Clinton wrote that in her imaginary conversations with Mrs. Roosevelt she was trying to figure out what the former first lady would do in her shoes.

"She usually responds by telling me to buck up or at least to grow skin as thick as a rhinoceros."

"The agent Sadat sold at a cheap price your victories of October, 1973, by signing the treaty of surrender that he was dragged into and which is now being implemented by his successor the agent Mubarak," the group added.

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